

Stay Safe

Install locks on doors and windows, ensuring they're locked while you're away. Consider investing in a home security system with cameras and alarms to deter potential intruders. Well-lit exteriors and trimmed bushes remove hiding spots, enhancing visibility and discouraging unlawful activity.



**Berrien County Sheriff's Office**  
Crime Prevention Unit  
919 Port Street  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221  
www.bcssheriff.org



Sheriff, Chuck Heit

 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

# Elkhart Martin’s shooting leaves 3 dead, 2 officers injured

## COMMUNITY REPORT

ELKHART, Ind. — A shooting at the Elkhart Martin’s Supermarket Monday left three people dead – including the suspected shooter – and injured two police officers with local ties.

At approximately 5:30 p.m. Monday, the Elkhart City 911 Communications Center received a 911 phone call of a shooting at a Martin’s Supermarket, 575 E. Jackson Blvd., Elkhart, Ind. Elkhart Police Department officers and other first responders dispatched to the scene and arrived shortly thereafter. Upon arrival, officers and first responders were directed to two shooting vic-

tims inside the store. The victims, identified as 49 year-old customer Benjamin Jeffrey and 19 year-old Martin’s employee Annasue Rocha, were pronounced deceased at the scene. Elkhart Police Department officers engaged the shooting suspect nearby, outside the store. During that engagement, two Elkhart Police Department officers – Corporal Paul Vandenburg, a Niles native, and Patrolman Ethan Pasternak, a Dowagiac native – sustained gunshot wounds.

The suspect that killed Jeffrey and Rocha and injured Vandenburg and Pasternak was identified as 54 year-

old Juan Sanchez, who had moved to the area from Illinois within the past year.

Both officers were transported to local hospitals for evaluation and treatment. At last information, Vandenburg was treated and released from the hospital and Pasternak was released Thursday afternoon.

The Elkhart County Homicide Unit is interviewing potential witnesses and is asking anyone with further information to contact the Homicide Unit at (574) 295-2825. All further inquiries regarding the sta-

tus of the investigation should also be directed to the Homicide Unit.

“In this horrific situation, words cannot express the pain felt in our community when a tragic incident like this happens,” said Elkhart Police Department Chief Dan Milanese in a statement. “This pain is especially felt by the victim’s families, the responding officers, the families of the wounded officers, and all the witnesses to this tragic incident. I want to thank our local law enforcement partners, including the Elkhart County Sheriff’s Office and the Indiana State Police, for their support and assistance during this time. I

ask for the community to continue to keep all those affected by this horrific event in your thoughts and prayers.”

Martin’s Super Markets released a statement following the fatal shooting.

“Our team feels immeasurable sadness as we mourn yesterday’s tragedy and the unimaginable loss of lives. We are working to best support the impacted families, our Associates, the first responders, and the entire Elkhart community. We are thankful for the quick action of our Associates and police officers, and we’ll continue to work alongside police to support their investigation.”



Pasternak



Vandenburg

## Brandywine board changes the length of members terms, adds student representation

By DEBRA HAIGHT  
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Brandywine Board of Education members have started the process to change their terms from four to six years and to also have student representation on the school board.

Action on both matters came at Monday’s school board meeting. The meeting was held at the Brandywine Innovation Academy Conference Room after a year or more of meetings being hosted in the Middle/Senior High School Media Center and being available for viewing on YouTube.

Board members and Superintendent Travis Walk first discussed changing the length of board terms at their Jan. 6 meeting. Board terms have been four years long with three or four board members up for election every two years.

Walker noted earlier this month that about 60 percent of school boards in Michigan have six year terms. He said districts like Brandywine decided on four year terms because it was thought that it is difficult to get people to run for six year terms.

Walker said having four year terms meant that there are potentially three or four new board members every two years. He said that if the length of the board term is changed, there would be two and at the most three board seats up for election every two years.

With the new policy adopted Monday, the chang-

es will go into effect in the 2026 election cycle. The four board seats up that year will be divided between two being for six years and two for four years. The board terms in all subsequent elections will be for six years.

With the student body representation on the school board, the discussion earlier this month centered around getting student perspectives coming directly to the board. Walker said then that some school districts have already made that change.

As approved by the board Monday, board members will approve two student representatives to the board. The student representatives will be able to participate in board discussions and attend committee meetings but will not be allowed to vote or take part in closed sessions. Walker will develop an application form for interested students to fill out.

The superintendent will arrange for the student representatives to have a place on the agenda in order to bring items to the board that are of concern or interest to the student body. The student representatives are then in turn tasked with bringing back board decisions to the student council.

In other action, board members changed the evaluation schedule for the superintendent. Recent changes in state law allows school boards to not evaluate superintendents annually but every two or three years if they have received the highest evaluation rating. Board members decided to do the superintendent evaluation every two years rather than every year.

Board members also approved the implementation of 90 day plans for the district’s strategic plan goals. The 90 day plan covers a variety of topics covering academics and programs, culture and learning environment, communications and engagement and facilities.

Monday’s meeting featured the start of a new monthly reports from district administrators. Monday’s reports came from Merritt

See BOARD, Page A8



# BUCKTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Buchanan receives update on \$19.4 million downtown infrastructure project

By DEBRA HAIGHT  
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — New Buchanan City Manager Tony McGhee updated City Commissioners Monday on the upcoming \$19.4 million downtown infrastructure project. After years of planning, work is expected to get underway in early spring.

The project will include water, sewer, storm water work as well as streetscape improvements on two blocks of Front Street in the downtown. The project was initially expected to take two years to complete but he said that it should be substantially complete this year.

McGhee told commissioners

that the city will host a stakeholders meeting with downtown business owners the first week of March to make sure everyone knows what to expect when construction starts. In addition, a “progress page” will be set up on the city’s website and weekly updates will be given.

Most of the work being done with the project will be in the two blocks of Front Street from Red Bud Trail to Oak Street. Detour signs as well as temporary parking areas will be highlighted during the project. One of the first things people will see as the project starts is the cutting down of trees in the project area.

An interesting aspect of the project will be creating a “festival street” on that section of Front

with no curbs and the street and sidewalks being on the same level. McGhee said Buchanan will be one of the first communities to have that feature.

Funding for the project is coming primarily from a Michigan Department of Transportation grant and a United States Department of Agriculture 40-year low interest loan with the city also contributing some monies from the general fund.

McGhee gave commissioners one piece of unwelcome news on the project Monday, telling them that there is a \$1.7 million shortfall with the construction budget. Commissioners expressed surprise at the news, saying that

See UPDATE, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

## Missing man found alive in Goshen

### COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — A man who went missing for more than a week in the Niles area has been found alive, authorities have confirmed.

Tyler Kenneth-Duane Visel, who had been missing since Jan. 21 in the Niles area, was found in good health Thursday morning in Goshen, Ind. and family has been notified.

At approximately 12:20

p.m. Sunday, the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department took a report that Visel was missing and believed to be endangered according to his family. Visel was last seen by family on Jan. 21 in the Niles area.

Berrien County Sheriff Chuck Heit thanked the Goshen Police Department and the public for their assistance in locating Visel.



Visel

### OBITUARIES

Diva Chastain  
Araceli Malagon  
Jerome Richard Skarbek  
Wilma Riggenbach  
Helen Ludwig  
Betty Law  
Derral Reeve  
Marcus Hartlein

Patricia Yearwood  
Abraham Hargreaves II  
Ellen Kingsley  
Ronald Graham  
William David Kreutz  
Peggy Gill  
Linda Cleavinger  
Frank Maley

Mary Lee Anderson  
Takoda Gallegos  
James Conrad  
Evelyn Davis



FRANKLY  
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS



Edwardsburg boys beat Brandywine 71-42



# FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

How can we honor the Constitution if we are going to change it?

Are there lots of Americans lining up to work in hotels, farmer's fields, restaurants and home construction projects? I don't think so.

Biden had 4 years to address the border issues and did nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Open borders have been a problem for a long time and finally someone in Washington DC is addressing it.

How can you claim to be tough on crime and allow people who beat up our Capitol Police to go free? Bear spray, bats, flag poles, stun guns and even a fire extinguisher across the back of the head are apparently the tools of vacationers in our nation's capital. "Pardon me" for bringing this up.

No more Kansas City Chiefs, please.....

I'll gladly take 40 degrees for winter and a little sunshine along the way.

We are producing more oil now than at any time in our history. The Canadian sludge from the Keystone Pipeline is dangerous business. One spill of that most toxic stuff can destroy miles of land and even more of the water table. There are much better oil options available. This stuff is the worst of the worst.

RFK Jr. should ban smoking if he really cares about our health.

WEATHER

| SATURDAY                 | SUNDAY                   | MONDAY                   | TUESDAY                  | WEDNESDAY                     | THURSDAY                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                          |                          |                          |                          |                               |                                  |
| Partly Cloudy<br>38° 28° | Partly Cloudy<br>49° 31° | Mostly Cloudy<br>40° 24° | Mostly Cloudy<br>39° 30° | 50% Chance of Rain<br>42° 32° | 60% Chance Frozen Mix<br>40° 26° |



## BOSCH COMMUNITY FUND UNDERWRITES SMC STEM CAMP

### COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College has been awarded another Bosch Community Fund grant for the seventh Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Summer Camp the third week of June on the Dowagiac campus.

Math and Physics Professor Andrew Dohm, who writes the grants, said the popular free camps will be offered to area students entering grades 4-6 this fall.

Dohm is “planning for around 200 students this year. It’s a great age to tap into because of their excitement. For over seven years, their generosity has made it possible for us to offer a STEM Summer Camp to students in our community — an opportunity that has been truly transformative for countless young minds.

“Thanks to their support,



we have been able to inspire curiosity and ignite a passion for STEM in students who might not otherwise have access to such enriching ex-

periences,” Dohm said. “Each year, the camp has provided hands-on learning opportunities and the chance for students to envision themselves as the future engineers, scientists and problem-solvers of our world. We deeply value the partnership we have built with the BOSCH Community Fund and look forward to continuing this collaboration to inspire and empower the next generation.”

Last summer, campers measured load-bearing Leaning Towers of Pasta built of raw spaghetti and marshmallows, coded with artificial intelligence (AI), ran a math-based pizzeria to learn fractions and made multi-colored slime from water, glue, shaving cream, food coloring and cornstarch.

Hands-on activities stress problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaborative teamwork.

“We will open sign-up at the end of May/beginning of June,” Dohm said. “We will advertise a web page with a link to sign up.”

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

**Choose The Leader In:**

- Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
- Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
- Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
- Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
- Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso

**Contract/Fixed Price Options**

- Volume Discounts
- Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
- Premium Diesel Fuel
- Hoses & Filters in stock

**QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS**

J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes

Quality Petroleum Distributors  
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031  
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

# THE CHIEFTAIN HEART

HELPFUL  
ENGAGED  
ACHIEVEMENT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
TEAMWORK

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS**  
BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

(269) 782-4400  
DOWAGIACSCHOOLS.ORG

**Looking for a new pharmacy?**  
*We make transfers easy!*

MAKE CASSOPOLIS FAMILY CLINIC NETWORK  
YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME.

Our Family. Caring For Yours.  
[www.cassfamilyclinic.org](http://www.cassfamilyclinic.org)

Visit us on social media and on our website for updates and more information  
Cassopolis Family Clinic Network is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Niles FFA turns in strong performance at districts

## COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — Niles students turned in strong performances during the Future Farmers of America District event Wednesday at Niles High School.

Isis Frantz received a fourth place Gold in Prepared Public Speaking and Zarrah Dyer received first place Gold in Creed and Marisa Freehling received a second place Gold in Job Interview. Both Dyer and Freehling will be moving on to Regionals taking place Feb. 12-13. Niles' Parliamentary Procedure team received a first place Gold and is also moving onto Regionals and Ring Lardner's High Conduct of Meetings team received a second place gold and is also headed to Regionals.



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

# Man gets prison time for meth possession

By DEBRA HAIGHT  
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Three area residents were sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Jimmie Edward Taylor, Jr., 33, pleaded guilty to delivery/manufacture of methamphetamine/ecstasy and was sentenced to four years to 20 years in prison with credit for 125 days already served and \$198 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred in August, 2024 in Niles.

Taylor also pleaded guilty to possession of meth, resisting and obstructing police and attempted failure to register as a sex offender and was given sentences of credit for time served and a total of \$243 in fines and costs.

Taylor said he knows what he was doing was wrong and wants to take his time in prison to turn his life around.

"I don't believe in bad people but people making bad choices and there are consequences to the choices people make," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said.

In another case, a man was sentenced to prison a criminal sexual conduct related charge.

Brenden Allen Cowgill, 24, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to commit sexual penetration and was sentenced to 38 months to 120 months in prison with credit for 196 days already served. He must register as a sex offender and pay \$258 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred in January,



Taylor



Cowgill

2024 in Buchanan. Cowgill was originally charged with third degree criminal sexual conduct.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch noted that the victim continues to suffer trauma from the incident. "The victim has had flashbacks and has difficulty going places," she said. "It has had a ripple effect where she has problems trusting others and has fear and anxiety."

Defense attorney Carri Briseno described Cowgill as "quite immature" and said the incident occurred after he was drinking alcohol at a friend's house. "He has had quite a bit of time to reflect on his actions and the choices he made," she said.

Cowgill said he has learned a lot from the incident, including thinking before he acts and being careful about who he associates with. "There have been some positives, I've grown closer to God, I haven't wasted m time in jail," he said. "I want to go back to school and have a career, I want to change the path my life is on."

Judge Hosbein said he was concerned about Cowgill's apparent lack of concern for the victim. "It appeared you disagreed with the impact the crime had on the victim when the prosecutor was talking," the judge said. "You choked her and made her have sex with you. I'm flabbergasted that you wouldn't know those things were wrong."

"With the impact this incident had on her, I wouldn't expect her to be here and make a statement," he added. "She will go through the rest of her life dealing with this, she will be dealing with this a lot longer than you will. I hope you understand the impact this had on her. The ripple effect is real."

The judge told Cowgill that the only

reason he didn't deviate higher than the sentencing guidelines was because Cowgill has a limited criminal record with only one prior misdemeanor.

Ryan Andre Harris, 46, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to attempted resisting and obstructing police and third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to 18 months to five years in prison on the drunk driving charge and credit for 76 days served on the attempted resisting police charge. He must pay a total of \$658 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Nov. 13 in Buchanan. This was his fifth drunk driving conviction and his blood alcohol level in this incident was .29, more than three times the legal limit.

Koch noted that Harris' blood alcohol level was very high and he posed a danger to the community. She said spending time in prison will give him time to address his substance abuse problem.

Defense attorney Shayne Williams said that Harris was employed previously and asked for a Swift & Sure probation sentence with the threat of a prison sentence if he violates. She noted that there had been a significant period of times between his convictions.

Harris said he took responsibility for his actions, saying that he had done a lot of irresponsible things in the past. "I've finally accepted that I can't drink," he said. "I don't have the fight in me to continue doing this, it's not what I want for my life."

"You need to stop making bad decisions including fighting with police officers," Judge Hosbein said. "You also don't get in a car and drive with a .29 blood alcohol level."

"I will give people a huge break the first time they come before me, I believe in rehabilitation," the judge added. "You're saying you're going to change and there's no sign you will. The only thing left is retribution. I would be a foll to put you back on probation."



Harris

# None injured in Edwardsburg shooting

## COMMUNITY REPORT

EDWARDSBURG — None were injured following a shooting in Edwardsburg Tuesday morning, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Clint Roach reports that at approximately 2 a.m. Tuesday, deputies of the Cass County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a shooting in the 18000 block of State Line Road in Edwardsburg.

Deputies arrived on scene and were able to place a 33 year-old male in custody within the area of the shooting. Investigation shows no one was injured during this incident. The incident stems from a dispute between several individuals within the area. The suspect is lodged at the Cass County Jail and the name is being withheld pending arraignment in the 4th District Court. The investigation is still ongoing.

Assisting Agencies were Elkhart County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police and Porter Ambulance.

Robert Clayton

PLASTERING & DRYWALL

- Fast Dependable Service
- Clean Quality Work
- Finish and Repair
- Water Damage Specialist

30+ Years Experience

269-695-7621

4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

New Construction!



3 bedroom, 2.5 bath two story home in the city of Dowagiac. Builder will work with buyer for interior preferences. 1516 sq. ft.

Call today for details!

Cressy & Everett REAL ESTATE



Sheila Scott  
REALTOR®  
26251 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI  
574-320-1815



POKAGON  
AUTOMOTIVE

- Oil Changes
- Tire Service
- Brakes
- Auto Inspection
- Tune Ups
- Fleet Repair
- Suspension Work
- Batteries
- Used Tires

Synthetic Blend Oil Change \$34.95\*

\*see us for details

60857 M-51, Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(574) 339-9205  
Next to Mantke's Mini Mart

PIPESTONE  
SMALL ENGINE

We now carry  Simplicity

Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment

Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors



Husqvarna



GRAVELLY

- Cylinder Boring
- Machine Shop
- Engine Rebuilding
- Crankshaft Regrinding

Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton  
Ariens • Husqvarna • Tanaka • Gravelly

4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 • 269-461-6421  
www.pipestonesmallenginemi.net

PET OF THE WEEK



Ginger Boy is neutered, FIV+ and also diabetic. Volunteers said he's just like any other cat and just needs a little extra care. Adopting him means giving him a second chance at a loving home. Contact sevenstarsanctuary@gmail.com.

# Opinion

## Gullibility, social media and the Martian Invasion of 1938

To this day, I remember an older sister convincing me that people lived inside the moon. Of course, this was an earlier age of rocketry, moonwalks, posters on the bedroom wall and a huge arsenal of astronaut toys in my toybox. It was nearly 30 years earlier that Orson Welles had incited a panic by convincing his CBS Mercury Theatre radio audience that a Martian invasion was in progress. Have times changed 87 years since that infamous War of the Worlds live broadcast on Octo-



Cains

ber 30, 1938, regarding our level of gullibility in today's high-tech and socially active existence? Not much. Anyone spending more than 30 seconds on Facebook, Instagram or TikTok or any of the other social media platforms will undoubtedly encounter a social sea of amazing videos and photos. We tend to watch, rewatch and of course, share these with our

friends, families and strangers. I often find myself sharing funny videos and photos that are simply mindless nonsense and cater to an audience looking for a quick laugh or even an argument from time to time. Many of the newsy videos appear to be coming from credible, trustworthy sources like broadcast news, for example. However, there are a lot of homegrown and foreign players editing the audio and video to cause flat-out deception for no reason other than to stir panic, create outrage and

sow fear amongst the social users. And yes, much of these manipulated videos continue to be shared and reshared courtesy of the social network platforms that have zero monitoring and fact checking. Yes, gullibility is alive and well today, just as it was when the great Martian invasion took place in 1938. It is often difficult for me and my journalist friends to be silent when we hear or see news items of high value being manipulated or created by artificial intelligence to deceive the public.

Sometimes only one word is changed in a shared news video that completely overrides the truth in the entire story. Political videos are among the most deceitful brands of truth disruption. Everyday I see "questionable" videos that claim to be authentic only to dig a little further on the internet and find out the videos are false, made up, faked and wrong. This is not a left versus right problem, it's everyone's problem. If a person can use Facebook or other social media, then he or she is also fully

capable of using Google to verify the authenticity of a story – video or photo included – that pops up in their social media feed before sharing it with hundreds of people. He should take this extra step, especially if the story sounds truly outrageous. If he cares nothing about the truth and continues embracing unverified national news from Facebook, he should have a survival "go-bag" ready once word gets out the Martians have arrived just outside the city limits.

Animals, especially dogs and cats, rely on us humans to care for them and love them.

### Pets are a privilege, not a right

We have all experienced the unending love and joy that a pet brings at one point or another. That little being who runs to the door to greet you when you arrive home from work creates a feeling unlike any other. Unfortunately, many cats and dogs either don't get that opportunity, or they do but are abused by the very person they love. According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, there are an estimated 70 million homeless dogs and cats struggling to survive in the United States. Much of this is due to people's failure to spay and neuter their pets, often because they believe they can make a quick profit by selling puppies. Given the sheer number of pets already in America, wouldn't you think people would be smarter than to breed their animals? You'd think

but greed is so prevalent that "puppy mills" remain a huge issue in this country. According to The Humane Society of the United States, there are around 10,000 active puppy mills in the U.S. today. Animals, especially dogs and cats, rely on us humans to care for them and love them. Sadly, too many are failed over and over again. We need to remember to treat all living things with love and respect, not just human beings. Please, take your pets to the vet regularly, get their teeth cleaned yearly, make sure they get their check-ups and bloodwork as needed and, most importantly, remember to spay and neuter your pets. Peace and love to you all. *Joshua Turnock is a Niles High School graduate and a valued member of Leader Publications' Design Team.*



Turnock

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship cruel, unconstitutional

The first sentence of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside." Donald Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship is a cruel and unconstitutional assault on our democracy. Yet our elected officials in Washington have yet to issue a formal statement against it. Senators Peters and Slotkin along

with Representative Tim Walberg have a responsibility to uphold their oath of office and take a stand against President Trump's executive order. Failing to do so is not only a betrayal of the 14th Amendment and the fundamental rights it guarantees to every child born in this country, but also a direct attack on our Constitution. This is a moment that demands courage and clarity—not complacency and political games. Continued silence from our elected representatives is instilling new fear

in people across this country who have spent their whole lives calling this country home. We need leaders at every level of government, as well as community and civic leaders, who will defend the Constitution and stand up for newborns and immigrant families who are being targeted by this un-American policy. We need leaders who will stand up against injustice and fight for equality. *Naomi Ludman Dowagiac*

### Medicare Advantage Needs Protection in Michigan

As we enter Medicare's annual enrollment period, Michigan's 1.2 million Medicare Advantage beneficiaries face crucial healthcare decisions amid rising costs for basic necessities. Medicare Advantage has proven itself an invaluable program, providing comprehensive, affordable coverage that saves beneficiaries an average of \$2,541 annually compared to traditional Fee-For-Service Medicare. The program's streamlined "all-in-one" approach eliminates the need for supplemental coverage while extending vital benefits to

our most vulnerable populations. Over 58% of Michigan's Medicare recipients now rely on Medicare Advantage plans, including significant numbers of low-income seniors and minorities who might otherwise struggle to access quality healthcare. However, proposed policy changes in Washington threaten to undermine these benefits. These modifications could result in reduced supplemental benefits, fewer choices, and higher costs for seniors who can least afford them. For Michigan, where Medicare Advantage serves as a healthcare

lifeline for so many, the stakes are particularly high. Our congressional delegation, including Senator Gary Peters, has historically championed healthcare accessibility. Now, they must actively oppose policies that would increase seniors' healthcare costs and defend Medicare Advantage's vital role in our healthcare system. Michigan's seniors deserve nothing less than their full support in preserving this essential program. *Sarah Crofoot Benton Harbor*

#### NEWS

## Honor Credit Union opens applications for 15th annual Scholarship Program

### COMMUNITY REPORT

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Honor Credit Union is excited to continue its 15-year tradition of supporting Michigan students through its 2025-2026 Community Commitment Scholarship Program. This year, Honor will award a total of \$30,000 in scholarships, providing 12 community-driven high school seniors with \$2,500 each to help them achieve their college or trade school education goals. Honor Credit Union's history is rooted in supporting education, beginning over 90 years ago as Berrien Teachers Credit Union. Though its membership has grown and expanded to 28 locations across Michigan, Honor's dedication to serving educators, students, and community members remains at the core of its mission. "At Honor Credit Union, we be-

lieve in the power of education to transform lives and communities," said Scott McFarland, Honor Credit Union's CEO. "These scholarships are our way of helping the next generation achieve their dreams and work toward bright futures." **Eligibility Requirements:** • Applicants must be a primary account holder at Honor Credit Union at the time of application and scholarship award presentation. • The student must be a graduating high school senior in 2025, attending college or trade school in the fall of 2025. • Students must complete the online application, including a short-form essay detailing their academic achievements and community involvement. Applications must be submitted



online by Friday, March 14, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Paper applications delivered to branch locations will not

be considered. Scholarship recipients will be notified in late April 2025. For the application form and

full details, visit [www.honorcru.com/scholarship](http://www.honorcru.com/scholarship). Honor Credit Union is committed to helping its members build a secure financial future. Over the years, Honor has awarded more than 200 scholarships to students pursuing their educational goals. This year's \$30,000 scholarship program continues that tradition, empowering Michigan students to achieve their goals and create positive change in their communities. "Winning the Honor Credit Union Scholarship has been a huge boost for me as a STEM student," shared previous Community Commitment Scholarship recipient and current Grand Valley State University student Mollie Murdock. "It's helped ease the financial stress, letting me focus solely on my classes, and has given me extra motivation to keep pushing toward my education at Grand Valley."

**Niles Daily Star**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLISHER**  
Rich Cains  
(219) 455-2349  
[rich.cains@leaderpub.com](mailto:rich.cains@leaderpub.com)

**ACCOUNTING MANAGER**  
Rhonda Rauen  
[rhonda.rauen@leaderpub.com](mailto:rhonda.rauen@leaderpub.com)  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION**  
Amy Glover  
(269)687-7717  
[amy.glover@leaderpub.com](mailto:amy.glover@leaderpub.com)

**EDITORIAL MANAGING EDITOR**  
Maxwell Harden  
231-750-5776  
[max.harden@leaderpub.com](mailto:max.harden@leaderpub.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Dennis Hinsey  
(269) 362-1525  
[dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com](mailto:dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com)

**DESIGN CENTER MANAGER**  
Allison Dale  
[allison.dale@leaderpub.com](mailto:allison.dale@leaderpub.com)

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Joshua Turnock  
Caitlin Schlemmer

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
(269) 591-6105

# COMICS & PUZZLES

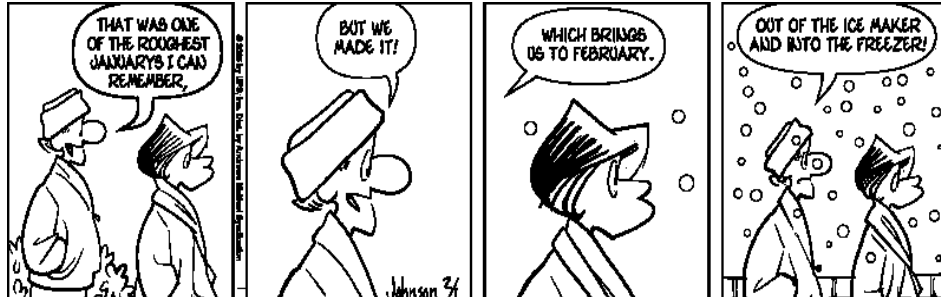
**ADAM**



## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



## BORN LOSER

**FRANK & ERNEST**

## GRIZZWELLS



## THATABABY



**YOUR AD  
HERE**

**CALL TODAY**

Find out how to grow your business in  
print and online. Call (269) 683-2100.

**Leader** Publications

**Money doesn't grow on trees...**  
**But you can find it in your local newspaper.**

With hundreds of dollars in coupon savings every week,  
 your local newspaper pays for itself... and then some!

Call today  
 to subscribe!  
 269-687-7710

**Leader Publications • [www.leaderpub.com](http://www.leaderpub.com)**



## SODOKU PUZZLE

**HOW TO PLAY:** Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

**DIFFICULTY RATING:** 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 |   | 2 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   | 1 |
|   | 3 | 1 |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4 |   | 7 |   | 9 |   | 6 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   | 6 |   | 8 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | 8 |   | 5 |   | 9 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 6 | 3 |   |
| 8 |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 2 |   | 9 |

**MODERATELY CONFUSED**



## REALITY CHECK



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1 Wall that holds back water  
4 Dull  
8 "Madam, I'm —"  
12 Lawyers' org.  
13 Costa —  
14 Latvia's capital  
15 Loathed  
17 Employs  
18 Recessed area  
19 Carve in relief  
21 Write  
22 Lend an —  
23 Young eel  
26 Impair

37 Neighbor  
of Kan.  
38 Flat fish  
39 Montana  
city  
41 — Pasha  
43 Hang down  
44 Defame  
47 Address  
for a  
countess  
51 Tel —  
52 In-depth  
view  
54 Nap  
55 Long river  
in Africa  
56 — “Marla”  
57 Fancy  
jug  
58 Friendly  
nation  
59 For each

**DOWN**

1 Kooky art movement  
2 Genesis name  
3 Opposite of fem.  
4 Man at the wheel  
5 Gone up  
6 High card  
7 Commanded

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 Island near Bonaire   | 32 Feather scarf      |
| 9 Make confused         | 35 Jail on a ship     |
| 10 Times                | 39 Actress/singer     |
| 11 Bulk                 | Halle —               |
| 16 Bishop of Rome       | 40 Unsightly          |
| 20 Nothing more than    | 42 Fole gras          |
| 23 Paradise             | 43 Garment size       |
| 24 Traditional learning | 44 Crafted            |
| 25 Put into words       | 45 Declare boldly     |
| 26 Lots and lots of     | 46 Zola title         |
| 27 Common verb          | 48 “Flight away!”     |
| 29 Level                | 49 Disreputable place |
| 30 Location             | 50 Belgian river      |
|                         | 53 Zip                |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
| 23 | 24 | 25 |    |    |    | 26 | 27 |    |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |
| 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    | 39 | 40 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 41 | 42 |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 44 | 45 |    |    |    | 46 |    | 47 |    |    | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 | 53 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |    |
| 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |

2-1

© 2025 UFS. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

## BREVITY



## HEART OF THE CITY



DEATH NOTICES

**Diva Chastain**, 95, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Services have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. [www.AllredFuneralHome.com](#).

**Araceli Malagon**, 15, of Baroda passed away Wednesday, January 22, 2025 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs.

**Jerome Richard Skarbek**, 82, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Friday, January 24, 2025. Services are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

**Wilma Riggenschbach**, 94, of Buchanan, passed away Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at 2:00P.M. at Mission Hills Memorial Chapel in Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Helen Ludwig**, 84, of Niles, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

**Betty Law**, 94, of Niles, passed away Sunday, January 19, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown

Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Derral Reeve**, 70, of Niles, passed away Monday, January 20, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Marcus Hartlein**, 62, of Niles, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Patricia Yearwood**, 81, of Niles, passed away Sunday, January 26, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Abraham Hargreaves II**, 75, of Niles, passed away Saturday, January 25, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, in Niles. [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#)

**Ellen Kingsley**, 89, of Cassopolis formerly of Dowagiac passed

away January 28, 2025 at Cass County Medical Facility. Arrangements are pending with and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

**Ronald Graham**, 85, of Berrien Springs, passed away Friday, January 24, 2025. Funeral services will be held February 2, 2025 at 2:00P.M. at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. [www.AllredFuneralHome.com](#)

**William David Kreutz**, 62, passed away on January 25, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to and provided by Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES



**Peggy Gill**  
*August 24, 1931 - January 20, 2025*

Peggy D. Gill, 93, passed away quietly January 20, 2025. She was born Coloma, MI to the late Fred and Blanche Lombard.

Preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Cardinal Charlie" and son, Barry. She is survived by her son, Terry (Margaret); grandchildren, Amber (Brett) Keizer and Christopher Brown; brother, Douglas (Sandra) Lombard; nephews, Bryan

(Jennifer) and Scott (Kim) Lombard.

Cremation has taken place and the services will be at a later date. To send condolences or sign the guest book, please visit [www.cliffordshoemaker.com](#)



**Linda Cleavinger**  
*March 16, 1944 - January 28, 2025*

Linda Kay (Panfil) Brown-Cleavinger, aged 80, peacefully passed away on January 28, 2025, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Born March 16, 1944, in

Grand Rapids, Michigan, and raised by the late Andrew and June (Selleck) Panfil, Linda's life was a testament to love, service, and faith.

Linda was the beloved wife of the late Ambros Brown, with whom she shared many cherished years until his passing on January 28, 2000. She found love again and is survived by her second husband, Ray Dean Cleavinger, marrying on May 14, 2011; He stood by her side, sharing her zest for life, travel and devotion to family. Linda was a loving mother to Tammy Brown (Kira Terhune), Julie Brown, Jennifer Brown, and Tim (Peggy) Brown. Her legacy continues through her adored grandchildren, Allison (Dalton) Robison and Kyle Brown, and her treasured great-grandson, Lincoln Robison with another blessing on the way.

Predeceased by her brother Gary Hartman, her sister-in-love, Sue Reniger and brother-in-law, Ronald McKenzie, Linda is fondly remembered by her sister, Judy McKenzie, sister-in-law, Wanda Hartman, and Ron Reniger. Her memory will also be cherished by Ambros Brown and Ray Cleavinger's families as well as countless others she included into being part of hers. Her family, a source of immense pride and joy, will carry forward her spirit of generosity and kindness.

Linda's educational journey led her to receive her registered nurse's degree (R.N.), which paved the way for a compassionate career in nursing. She retired after nineteen years of dedicated service from the VA Medical Facility in Lexington, Kentucky only to embark on a second career at the Fountain Clinic in Marshall, Michigan where she continued to touch lives for another twelve years. Her colleagues and the patients she cared for will remember her as a beacon of warmth and professionalism.

Faith was the cornerstone of Linda's life. She served as a Sunday School Teacher and speaker for over sixty years, instilling values and wisdom in the hearts of countless individuals. Her unwavering commitment to her faith was evident in her daily reading of the Bible and her support for foreign missions. Linda's home was known to many as a refuge, a place where love and care were

in abundance. She has been a faithful and active member of New Hope Apostolic Church.

Linda's interests painted the picture of a life well-lived. She enjoyed traveling, exploring the world with a sense of wonder and appreciation. Known for her delectable biscuits and gravy, she brought smiles and full bellies to family gatherings and church potlucks alike. Her sense of humor and loving nature made her company a delight, and her faith-filled life inspired all who knew her. Linda took the word of grandmother and expanded it's definition beyond belief. Grandma, Allison and Kyle would share in many days of love, laughter and adventures creating a lifetime of cherished memories.

As someone who embodied love and service, Linda's life can be encapsulated by the words of Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Linda indeed did many small things for others, always with great love.

Today, as we reflect on Linda Kay (Panfil) Brown Cleavinger's life, we celebrate the immeasurable impact she had on her family, friends, and community. She was a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength for all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Her legacy will be cherished and kept alive in the hearts of those she touched.

Photos, condolences, and memories can be left for Linda's family at [www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com](#).

Those wishing to make a memorial donation have been asked to consider New Hope Children's Ministry at 6922 E. Drive N. Battle Creek, Michigan 49014 or Heritage Assisted Living Activities Fund at 14420 Helmer Road S. Battle Creek, Michigan 49015.

Services to honor Linda will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. with a time of visitation beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Dexter Lake Church at 1555 Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49014. A private interment will take place at Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Linda's funny and loving nature, coupled with her deep faith, will be dearly missed. Although she has left this earthly realm, the essence of her spirit will forever remain an integral part of the tapestry of her family's lives. We take

solace in knowing that she has found eternal peace and rest, and we honor her memory by living out the values she so gracefully exemplified.

In honoring Linda's life, her family will carry forward the light of her love, ensuring that her memory continues to bless the world just as she did.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.



**Frank Maley**  
*March 3, 1949 - January 28, 2025*

Frank Maley, 75, of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Frank, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, was born on March 3, 1949, in South Bend, Indiana, to Robert and Mona Maley. A proud graduate of John Adams High School in 1967, Frank pursued a business degree at Indiana University of South Bend.

On August 14, 1971, Frank married his high school sweetheart, Vicki Taylor, beginning a beautiful journey together that spanned over five decades. They built a loving home in the small town of Dowagiac, where they raised three children and created countless cherished memories.

Frank dedicated 36 years to a successful career in finance, but his true passion was his family. He adored his grandchildren and was their biggest fan, rarely missing a sporting event. His unwavering support and enthusiasm inspired everyone around him.

A man of great faith, Frank was an active member of the United Methodist Church of Dowagiac, where he generously gave his time and energy to serve the community. Known for his kind heart, infectious smile, and positive spirit, Frank touched countless lives.

Frank and Vicki shared a love for adventure,

traveling together and making 17 memorable trips to Disney World. He was also an avid sports fan, especially of Notre Dame, and his passion for the game was matched only by his dedication to the people he loved.

Frank will be remembered as a man of integrity, kindness, and faith, who brought joy to all who knew him. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his family and friends, who will miss him dearly.

Surviving are his three children - Jill (Jeff) Weber, Christopher Maley, and Danial (Sheila) Richmond; six grandchildren - Drew (Natasja) Weber, Colin Weber, Madelyn Weber, Austin Maley, Gable Richmond and Jocelyn Zoey Richmond; great-granddaughter - Lyric Maley; eight brothers and sisters in-law - Linda (Robert) Stouder, Gary (Jan) Taylor, Charlie Taylor, Connie (Rick) Quier, Peggy (John) Jones, Wendy (Curt) Willis, Dennis (Lucia) Taylor, and Pat Guess; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friend, Katherine Yoder.

Preceding him in death were his loving wife of 51 years - Vicki Maley; parents - Robert and Mona Maley; brother in-law - Tommy Taylor; and sisters-in-law - Martha Guess and Janice Bell.

Friends may visit with Frank's family from 5:30PM until 8:00PM on Friday, January 31, 2025, at Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac. A funeral service to celebrate Frank's life will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St, Dowagiac, with Pastor Christopher Momany officiating. Interment will follow in South Wayne Cemetery, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions in Frank's name may be made to the Dowagiac First United Methodist Church or the Cass County Council on Aging. Please visit Frank's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at [www.clarkch.com](#).

**Mary Lee Anderson**  
*February 4, 1920 - January 1, 2025*

Long-time Resident of Dowagiac, Michigan, Laid to Rest

Funeral Services for Mrs. Mary Lee Anderson, who was 104 years old, was held January 10, 2025, at Brown Funeral Home in Niles, Michigan. Mary Lee passed away peacefully at Corewell Health Hospital in Niles, Michigan, on January 1, 2025.

She was born on February 4, 1920, in Quincy, Florida, to the late Elijah and Sarah Davis. She was the last of 14 children to pass away.

Mary Lee met and married Jamie Anderson on February 14, 1946. Their lives together began

**Slabaugh's Storage Barns**

260-768-7989

Leave Message

8x8.....\$1,695

8x12.....\$2,035

10x12.....\$2,560

10x16.....\$2,905

12x16.....\$3,550

12x20.....\$4,095

Compare Our Quality & Price!

Assembled & Painted!

8x8 up to 14x36

**BIBLE TRUTHS**

Join us in the exciting world of Bible Truths. Learn from the bible how we got here? Did the New Testament take the place of the Old Testament? Can a nice person get to heaven? If we give a lot of our time to doing good for others will that get us to heaven? Does God cause bad things to happen to us in our life? Do we really have a guardian Angel? Do we go to Heaven of Hell when we die? What does the 4th commandment mean? Why is Sunday the day of the worship? Why does it matter what day we worship on. Do people who give a lot to the church get priority in going to heaven? Is Jesus ever coming back? These are just a few of the exciting subjects we are going to cover in our series of

Bible Truths: Reserve a spot today by emailing [Carlson7071@att.net](mailto:Carlson7071@att.net) Study starts on Feb 3, 2025 at the Niles Senior Center at 1109 Bell Rd Niles, Michigan

# Did You Know...

Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner's insurance?

**Call today to find out more!**

**(269) 683-4900**

Business • Home Auto • Life • Farm

**IMS**  
INSURANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

**Auto-Owners INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

214 N. 4th St., Niles

[www.imsinsuranceagency.com](#)

**(269) 683-4900**

**CROSSWORD ANSWER**

From Page 5

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | M |   | D | R | A | B |   | A | D | A | M |   |   |
| A | B | A |   | R | I | C | A |   | R | I | G | A |   |   |
| D | E | S | P | I | S | E | D |   | U | S | E | S |   |   |
| A | L | C | O | V | E |   |   |   | E | M | B | O | S | S |
|   |   |   | P | E | N |   |   |   | E | A | R |   |   |   |
| E | L | V | E | R |   | M | A | R |   | I | F | S |   |   |
| D | O | E |   |   | B | A | R | E |   | E | L | I |   |   |
| E | R | R |   |   | B | O | N | E |   | N | A | T |   |   |
| N | E | B |   |   | R | A | Y |   | B | U | T | T | E |   |
|   |   |   | A | L | I |   |   | S | A | G |   |   |   |   |
| M | A | L | I | G | N |   | M | I | L | A | D | Y |   |   |
| A | V | I | V |   | A | N | A | L | Y | S | I | S |   |   |
| D | O | Z | E |   | N | I | L | E |   | A | V | E |   |   |
| E | W | E | R |   | A | L | L | Y |   | P | E | R |   |   |

**SUDOKU ANSWER**

From Page 5

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 |

See OBITUARIES, Page A6

# Former Cass County correctional officer gets probation for drunk driving

By **DEBRA HAIGHT**  
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A former Cass County correctional officer was sentenced to probation for third offense drunk driving Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Charles Lee Maleski, 44, of Gage Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to three years probation in the Adult Treatment Court, completion of the Twin County Probation program, credit for 110 days served and \$3,533 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Sept. 2 in Wayne Township outside of Dowagiac. Maleski was hit a vehicle and then fled the scene. He was arrested a short time later and found to have a blood



Maleski

alcohol level of .288, over three times the legal limit.

Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz noted that Maleski had worked for the sheriff's department in the past. "When he's sober, he acts like a gentleman," Fitz said. "But that won't keep him from killing or injuring someone if he drives drunk ... He understands more than many what can happen if he doesn't follow his probation. I hope this will put him on the right path."

Defense attorney Greg Feldman said Maleski has now realized that he can't do it his own and needs help to maintain his sobriety. "There are those who can drink and know when to stop and others who can't drink at all, he's in the latter category," he said. "I really, really hope he can change, alcohol for him is evil."

Maleski said he was glad he was arrested and that he hadn't

hurt anyone. "I'm taking this as an opportunity to be sober," he said. "It's a me problem and I'm working on it every day. I'm 145 days sober today and my fog is lifting more every day."

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman said this was Maleski's fifth drunk driving offense in the last three years and that Maleski will face more time in jail if he is unsuccessful on probation. "You're a bad drunk in the sense that you drive when you drink," he said.

"You have to know what triggers make you turn to alcohol," he added. "You've definitely developed a drinking problem. The prosecutor is giving you a chance to get back on your feet ... You're very fortunate you're not sitting here for killing or seriously injuring someone."

A Dowagiac man who got into an altercation outside of a downtown Dowagiac restaurant and then assaulted police

was sentenced to jail and probation.

Jason Stewart Keen, 45, of Glenwood Road in Dowagiac, pleaded no contest to resisting and obstructing police as well as assault and battery and was sentenced to two years probation, 270 days in jail with credit for two days served and \$3,378 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Sept. 28 outside of the Wounded Minnow Saloon in Dowagiac. Witnesses said he punched a woman in the face after she accused him of parking too close to her car. When police transported him to the hospital, he refused to walk inside and then spit and kicked them and a paramedic.

Fitz said Keen has a history of violence with 15 prior misdemeanors, many for assaultive



Keen

incidents.

Defense attorney Nicholas Hogue said Keen is embarrassed and ashamed of his actions and doesn't remember much of what happened. "He's a good guy, but when he uses alcohol, he's not," he said.

Judge Herman pointed out that Keen hadn't gotten help after a 2022 attempted resisting and obstructing police conviction when he told Keen he had a drinking and anger management problem. "Your attorney says you're a good guy and maybe you are," he said. "But you're a mean drunk and that shows historically."

"You're 45 years old and have your own business, but you acted more like a five year old brat throwing a tantrum," the judge added. "... You like to drink and when you do, you become a mean drunk. It's time to grow

See **OFFICER**, Page A8

## OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6



in the states of Georgia and Florida. They had four children while living in the South: Lefoy, Betty Jean, Roger, and Lettie Ann. Later, Mary Lee and Jamie moved their family to Denver, Colorado, and resided there for a few years. In 1950, they decided to move to Michigan to be closer to relatives. They settled in Dowagiac, Michigan, where they parented three more children: Marian Delores, Richard Elijah, and Jamie, Jr.

Because of her loving spirit, Mary Lee devoted her entire life to taking care of others. She shared what little she had with anyone who was in need, always opening her doors to those who needed food to eat or a place to sleep. She worked for 20 years as a domestic engineer for the local dentist and his wife, the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neff. She was instrumental in helping them raise their children, while at the same time raising her own children.

Mary Lee leaves to cherish her memories, five remaining children: Lefoy Anderson, Lettie Ann Buck, and Marion Delores Anderson, all of Dowagiac, Michigan; Richard Elijah Anderson of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Jamie Anderson, Jr., (Vickie) of Columbus, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jamie Anderson, Sr., and by two of her children, Betty Jean Anderson and Roger Anderson.

Mary Lee was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

### Takoda Gallegos

March 14, 2007 - January 15, 2025

Takoda Simon Gallegos "Bubba", 17, of Vandalia, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in Mishawaka, IN.

The family will receive guests from 12noon until the Celebration of Life Service at 1:00 P.M., Friday, January 31st, at Clark Chapel, 405 Center St., Dowagiac. Burial to follow at Rush Lake Indian



Cemetery in Hartford. The family invites friends to join them for fellowship and a meal at the Pokagon Band Community Center following interment. Memorial contributions may be given to GO FUND ME Support for Takoda Gallegos Funeral Services. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at [www.clarkch.com](http://www.clarkch.com).

Takoda was born March 14, 2007 in St. Joseph, MI. He was a proud member of the Pokagon Tribe of Potawatomi Indians throughout his life. When living in Cass, he was an avid wrestler and enjoyed playing basketball. But his true passion was for the outdoors, where you could often find him fishing. When not out in nature, Takoda's favorite place was with his family, enjoying time together, especially their gatherings out at the lake.

He will be missed by his aunt, Alicia Daisy; his sisters, Isabelle and Madriana Gallegos; his father, Frank Gallegos, Jr.; his grandparents, Frank and Shirley Daisy Gallegos; his uncle, Sylvester Gallegos; his great aunts, Judy Daisy, and Karen Daisy; his great uncle, Terry Daisy; and many cousins and extended family members.

### James Conrad

January 1, 1935 - January 18, 2025

James Edward Conrad, husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully at the age of 90 on January 18, 2025 in Gulfport, Mississippi. Jim was born on January 1, 1935 in Dowagiac, Michigan to the late Alex and (Mary) Elizabeth Conrad.

Jim is survived by his brother, Roger Conrad, niece and nephew, Trudy Conrad and Alex Conrad, his children, Vicky Bell (Mark), Diana Ray, Elaine (Jonathan) Liffgens and Mike Conrad, Rebecca Portela (Luis), Vicki Tomkins (Mark), David, Wendy, Richard, Terry Bohan (Holly), and 11 grandchildren.

Honoring Jim's wishes, he will be cremated. Arrangements have

been entrusted to the Neptune Society and Rieman's Funeral Home of Gulfport Mississippi.

Please consider making a donation in memory of James Conrad to Singing River Hospice of Light

h t t p s : / / [singingriverhealthsystem.com/singing-river-foundation/donate/](http://singingriverhealthsystem.com/singing-river-foundation/donate/)



### Evelyn Davis

August 10, 1932 - January 16, 2025

Evelyn Davis was born in Dowagiac, MI to Frank and Elizabeth (Stevens) Biek on August 10, 1932. Despite her father's death when she was a baby, Evelyn's childhood was happy and full in the house on Orchard Street where she grew up with her brother Gene in the loving care of her mother and grandmother. Her small-town post-Depression world formed the wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend we loved forever. Her childhood included the simplest of pleasures: bike riding with her dog Stub in the bicycle basket; visiting many uncles and aunts who lived close by; helping her mother can, bake and cook; and being little sister to a loving big brother.

After high school graduation Evelyn went to Kalamazoo College, graduating in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in English. There, she also met a dashing young man, Don Davis, who became her life's love and partner during their sixty-nine years of marriage. They started their forever life on June 18, 1955, and in 1966 settled their family in East Lansing. By then, Evelyn and Don had added four children, three of whom survive her: Karen Davis (Allen Schnack), Susan Davis (Jim Gluys) and Ellen (Chris) Petti. Leaving her much too soon was beloved son John (Pat) Davis, Evelyn and Don's second child, who died in 2021. Eight grandchildren (some of whom lovingly refer to her as "Grandmuffin"), their spouses, and six (and a half!) great-grandchildren are her legacy.

Evelyn and Don's marriage and life included extraordinary travel experiences for

this small-town girl, among them: Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand (multiple return trips to this favorite destination), Israel, many countries in Europe, the Galapagos Islands and Vanuatu. In celebration of their 80th birthdays the adventurers journeyed to South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya. Closer to home, many trips took them to visit friends and family across the United States. Evelyn's favorite place of all, however, was their cottage on Long Lake, the family gathering place for the Strawberry Jam Fest, wine on the deck, M&M's, long walks, and boat rides.

Although Evelyn and Don traveled the world, Evelyn was inarguably most at home in her kitchen baking her famous brownies and chocolate chip cookies in the home designed by their dear friend Hank, where she and Don lived for fifty years. She was ever-present in the lives of her family: in the early years she kept track of four small children during Don's medical education, and later volunteered at the kids' schools, cheered at swimming meets, attended music recitals, choir concerts, plays, and many graduations. Motherhood was her calling, up to and including when the four small children were grown and caring for families of their own. It was important to Evelyn that in creating their home she and Don also welcomed many friends and family into their warm circle. All of us will remember her warm hugs and her habit of feeding everyone -- truly her language of love.

Evelyn's support of Don throughout his career enabled his long and satisfying medical practice. They relied on one another throughout their life, a true partnership of shared decisions, work, and family. Don was Evelyn's faithful companion every day in her later years, testament to their steadfast commitment to and love for one another.

We will miss Evelyn deeply, yet are sure she is at peace at the conclusion of a remarkable life. In her singular way, Evelyn left an indelible imprint on her husband and family who were privileged to call her wife and mother.

There will be a family gathering at the cottage in place of a memorial service, but we ask you to remember Evelyn by sharing her giving and generous spirit with those you love.

Those who would like to make a donation in Evelyn's memory may do so to the charity of their choice, or to The Peoples Church of East Lansing where Evelyn was a member for fifty-

nine years: The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.greastlansing.com](http://www.greastlansing.com)

### Celebrate a life



**SWEM CHAPEL**  
301 W Front St, Buchanan  
269-471-2700  
[starksfamilyfh.com](http://starksfamilyfh.com)





**Wagner**  
FAMILY FUNERALS

burials • cremations  
Only you can understand your loss...  
*...we care enough to try.*

**Connelly Chapel**  
Cassopolis  
**269.445.2435**

**Pobocik Chapel**  
Three Oaks  
**269.756.3831**  
[wagnercares.com](http://wagnercares.com)



**Lorie Bowers, Agent**  
68935 Gateway Dr.  
PO Box 623  
Edwardsburg, MI  
49112-0623  
Bus: 269-663-7015  
[www.LorieBowers.com](http://www.LorieBowers.com)

**Family is Why WE DO IT ALL**  
Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.

**Office Hours:**  
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm  
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm  
Saturday by Appointment

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE®  
StateFarm.com® • State Farm Insurance Companies  
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois



**“Collision Repairs Are Our Business”**  
\*Body and Frame Repair\*  
\*Insurance Work Welcome\*



## Get Fit, Stay Fit

The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.

- Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge
- H.I.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga



**Cass County COA**  
Enhancing Life

**Low Center**  
60525 Decatur Rd.  
Cassopolis, MI 49031

**(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110**  
[www.CassCOA.org](http://www.CassCOA.org)  
[facebook.com/CassCOA](https://facebook.com/CassCOA)

**Front Street Crossing**  
227 S. Front Street  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

# Niles approves Ferry Street School Park fundraiser

By MAXWELL HARDEN  
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The former site of Ferry Street School will soon receive a new lease on life.

The Niles City Council moved 8-0 to allow for a Patronicity campaign to raise funds for the Ferry Street School Park project. A fire in May 2023 destroyed the majority of the structure with only the façade of the original school building being saved. Ownership of the property was transferred back to the City of Niles in November 2024.

The façade was saved with the goal of preserving the remaining piece and incorporating it into a public space to memorialize the historic significance of the structure and create a community gathering location.

To fund construction of the park, the History Center Director is proposing using the crowd-funding platform, Patronicity. If the campaign goal is met, Patronicity offers a matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

The History Center Director successfully used Patronicity in 2019 to raise funds for the Chapin Mansion Accessibility project.

Constructed in 1867 at a cost of nearly \$3,000, the Ferry Street School opened in January 1868 as Niles's school for "colored children." In 1870, the Niles school system was integrated, and the facility closed. It reopened as an integrated school in 1873, with the west wing added in 1903. From 1956 to 1975 the School for Exceptional Children was located here. In 1975, concerned citizens began restoring the original building to its nineteenth century style.

Nineteenth century one-room schools in this community typically contained a woodburning stove, woodbox, water bench, coat pegs, wooden blackboards and long rows of desks. One teacher often taught two grades. Lessons were in reading, writing, spelling, numbers, declamation and geography. The building received a historical marker in 1980 from the state's Michigan History Division.

For several years, the building was home to the Ferry Street Resource Center, which assists area residents in securing resources and to provide educational and life-enrichment programs and activities, with a goal of bridging existing educational, cultural and societal gaps that exist within the community.

In September 2023, FSRC moved to its new location at 317 N. 7th St. – across the street from the site of Ferry Street School.

### In further business, council:

- Renewed an agreement for information security services from Wazuh Security Service for three years with an annual cost of \$10,875.60.
- Approved the purchase of a hot-water pressure washer for the Utility Service Center wash bay from T. George Podell of South Bend, Indiana for \$9,210 including delivery and installation.
- Accepted the bid of \$18,200 from Precision Electric Inc. of Mishawaka, Indiana for the purchase and installation of 30hp motor soft starters to reduce equipment damage and personnel expenses at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Approvex the purchase of 4,014 feet of wire for use by the Electric Division from Border States of Lansing, Michigan for \$8,595.18.
- Approved a resolution supporting the application for a Michigan State His-



MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

toric Preservation Office Certified Local Government in the amount of \$35,000 for the History Center restroom accessibility project.

- Approving the proposal for historic preservation painting services by Double M Painting Services of Dowagiac, Michigan with the \$8,568, with the expense being paid for by a private grant.
- Approved the estimated \$2,781 repair of the drive on vehicle lift at Dial-a-Ride by All Automotive Equipment, Inc of Nunica, Michigan.
- Approved the purchase of 1.37 acres of wetland credits from the St. Joseph II Wetland Mitigation Bank through Crandell Environmental of Charlotte, Michigan at a cost of \$150,700 to close out the Pucker Street Dam removal project.
- Approved the Utilities Department's Renewable Energy Plan and approved the Michigan Public Power Agency to file the plan with the Michigan Public Service Commission as required by PA 235 of 2023.
- Approved overhead electric lines with underground lines in the Ballard Hills service area to improve reliability and reduce future maintenance costs the project is estimated to cost \$86,723.40.
- Approved the appointment of Catherine Waggoner to a five-year term on the Niles Housing Commission.
- Approved the appointment of Jennifer Scally to a three-year term on the Niles Planning Commission.
- Approved the reappointment of Christina Arseneau, Jamie Bennett and Mollie Kruck to a three-year term on the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee.

# Niles church, barbershop host winter clothing giveaway

By MAXWELL HARDEN  
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A local business and a local church teamed up to help clothe those in need.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 601 Ferry St., hosted a winter clothing giveaway Saturday at In The Cut Barbershop, 507 Sycamore St. Community members of all ages and backgrounds made their way inside to look through tables of free hats, coats, socks, boots and more to find something that fit.

"It's to help people who honestly can't get it," said Mount Calvary Outreach Specialist Michael Goodlow. "Kids lose gloves and parents sometimes don't have the money to keep going out and buying them. If we can give it away for free that helps the parents as well."

Mount Calvary Pastor Bryant Bacon said the idea to host a clothing giveaway was born out of a 2025 planning session for the church's men's ministry.

"The men decided they wanted to do this and collected hats, coats and gloves," he said. "Hopefully this won't be the last time we'll do it this winter. There has been a pretty good response."

Barber William Hobbs was more than happy to offer the shop as a space to host the giveaway.

"It's a beautiful thing to be able to contribute to something positive," Hobbs said. "Seeing them come in and walk out with a smile... it's a beautiful thing to be able to contribute like that, especially in a world where so many people don't have anything and can come get something. It's a beautiful thing."

For Bacon, the giveaway was about making a difference in their community.

"That's who we are," Bacon said. "That's kind of what we built our ministry about giving and being helpful to the community. We're just doing what we've been doing for years so that makes me feel good to have people that just want to contribute and do good and make sure they make an impact in people's lives."

# BOARD

Continued from page A1

Principal Matt Severin, Elementary Assistant Principal Melissa Foster, Middle/High School Principal Evan Winkler and Adult, Alternative and Special Education Director Elise Sorensen.

In addition, there was an academic highlight on an effort to improve math and overall academic scores. Becky Lokey reported that the district is supporting efforts to build instructional routines to guide students to better math proficiency. The effort is being done through teacher training and materials.

# Emergency Shelter Services prepares for Coldest Night of the Year 5K fundraiser

### COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Emergency Shelter Services is encouraging Berrien County residents to team up, fundraise, and participate in The Coldest Night of the Year awareness walk.

The family-friendly fundraising walk takes place on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 22 and supports people experiencing hunger, hurt, and homelessness in Berrien County.

Thousands of Americans will take to the streets for CNOY with events taking place in cities, towns, and communities all across the country. By walking together in the chill of the night, participants will better under-

stand the experience of being on the streets during a cold American winter, while raising funds to aid the work of Emergency Shelter Services in providing much-needed support to our community.

The Benton Harbor walk begins and ends at The Secret Garden, located at 209 W. Main St., Benton Harbor. Participants will walk a 5K route through the Benton Harbor Arts District, warm up with toasty drinks at rest stops – sponsored by Peat's Cider Social and the Renaissance Athletic Club – and will be able to celebrate their efforts together at the finish line. All those who raise over \$150 (or \$75 for youth) will also don iconic CNOY knit caps (also known as "toques" by

our Canadian partners) as they face the cold night.

This is Emergency Shelter Services' first year taking part in the Coldest Night of the Year, with a fundraising goal of \$20,000. An expected 100 walkers and 20 teams, including staff and friends of Emergency Shelter Services, are expected to brave the cold winter's night.

Emergency Shelter Services has been serving Berrien County for 40 years and the funds raised in the Coldest Night of the Year will benefit their clients in a time of the year known historically for low levels of giving.

For more information, contact ESS Board Secretary Sarah Eades at (630) 903-1072.

*We'll be there when you need us most*



**Mission Hills**  
Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens  
- Since 1953 -

Niles • 269-683-8333 • [MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com](http://MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com)

**Enjoy a lunch & a show in 2025!**

2-26-25 - Good Morning Vietnam – Hits from 1955-1975  
3-27-25 - Jersey Boys  
4-24-25 - Church Basement Ladies  
5-21-25 - Nunsense  
9-18-25 - Heartbreak Hotel  
11-19-25 - The Naughty List

*Give us a call or see our website for more information.*

**269-684-2880**  
**1-800-811-1528**  
**[www.signaltravel.com](http://www.signaltravel.com)**

**SIGNAL**  
TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.

**MONUMENTS**  
*By Design* LLC

**Cemetery Memorial Stones**  
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031  
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828  
[www.monumentsbydesignllc.com](http://www.monumentsbydesignllc.com)  
[monumentsbydesign@gmail.com](mailto:monumentsbydesign@gmail.com)



*Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans*

**PAUL E. MAYHEW FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI  
269-663-5345  
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

# UPDATE

Continued from page A1

they thought all the funding was in place before they voted to proceed last fall.

"This makes me angry," Commissioner Dan Vigan-sky said. "None of us knew this, we assumed we had all the money we needed. We need to do a post mortem and figure out where we screwed up."

McGhee said he will do that but right now he's working on getting the project going. He said while he's looking for additional grants or loans to make up that difference, the city does have the funds to cover that amount if it has to. Commissioners did approve a resolution of support and commitment of match for the downtown

project.

Besides the downtown project, McGhee updated commissioners about the Front Street retaining wall project and also asked commissioners how they want to handle the upcoming budget process in advance of the new fiscal year that starts July 1.

With the retaining wall, he said he and other city staff met with the contractor last week and work should start the first or second week of March. He said there will be a day or two when that part of Front Street will be closed to traffic with one lane open otherwise until the project is done.

On the budget, he asked

commissioners if they wanted to have another work session to set down city goals. Commissioners had a work session to set goals on Nov. 23 where they talked about goals for the downtown, city parks, the fire department, boards and committees and code enforcement.

Commissioners said they didn't feel they needed another work session. McGhee will now find a date when commissioners can meet in March for a budget workshop. A preliminary draft budget will be presented April 28 to the commission with the final budget up for approval and adoption May 26.

After two weeks on the job, McGhee said he's met with department heads and staff with everyone agreeing on the need to focus on policies and pro-

cedures. Specifically, he wants to work on items such as the utility billing process, goal setting and retaining employees as well as developing a new rental housing ordinance.

Staff also told him that they wanted to restore Friday City Hall office hours. City Hall will now be open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Previously, City Hall was closed to the public at 1 p.m. on Fridays.

In action at Monday's meeting, commissioners appointed the five-member compensation committee which will determine whether commissioner salaries should be changed. Members will have staggered terms from one to five years and are Tony Houser, Jeannie Harris, Joseph Kruger, Matthew Pleasant and Jen Garry.

# OFFICER

Continued from page A7

up ... The next time you assault an officer, expect to go to prison."

### In other sentences:

- Christopher Michael Moon, 53, of Marcellus, pleaded to possession

of methamphetamine as a habitual offender and was sentenced to three years probation in the Adult Treatment Court, completion of the Twin County Probation program, credit for 113 days served and \$2,628 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Aug. 27 near Jones.

- Carter Joseph Stewart, 36, of Indi-



Moon



Stewart

anapolis, pleaded no contest to operating with a high blood alcohol level and possession of a firearm under the influence and was sentenced to 10 months probation, credit for five days served, 100 hours community service and \$1,925 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Sept. 21 in Edwardsburg.

Niles Daily Star  
Sports

GOT RESULTS?  
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Celebrate a life



**CLARK CHAPEL**  
405 Center St, Dowagiac  
269-471-2700  
starksfamilyfh.com



**Starks**  
Family Funeral Homes  
& Cremation Services

SOFTBALL

Dowagiac’s Huston joins Trine softball coaching staff

COMMUNITY REPORT

ANGOLA, Ind. – The Trine University softball team has announced the hiring of assistant coach Zech Huston for the 2025 season.

Huston’s responsibilities will include working with the outfielders and data analytics in addition to serving as the primary pitcher for batting practice.

“Zech is a great addition to our program, and we couldn’t be more excited

to have him as a part of the Trine Softball family,” said Danklefsen, “His passion for the game combined with his experience coaching at Division I, with new technologies and as a pitcher will allow him to help the program to improve from multiple angles.”

A 2018 Dowagiac Union High School graduate, Huston joins the staff having



Huston

most recently served as the lead assistant at Webber International University in Florida for the past two seasons. There he was primarily responsible for coaching outfielders, culminating in one of his student-athletes earning All-Conference honors and a marked increase in fielding percentage by the outfield staff.

In his first coaching stop, Huston worked under Kathy Leitke at Western Michigan University as a student assistant and then continued beyond his

graduation. Before her retirement Leitke amassed 790 wins over 31 years, with 478 coming during her time at Western. She was a national and conference coach of the year.

Prior to his coaching career, Huston played baseball at Lake Michigan College while earning an associate degree. He graduated from Western with a degree in Sports Management in 2021. Since his graduation he has taken up men’s fast-pitch softball where he serves as a pitcher.

BASKETBALL



EDWARDSBURG BOYS  
BEAT BRANDYWINE 71-42

By SCOTT HASSINGER  
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — If the last couple games are any indication, it appears the Edwardsburg boys basketball team has found its groove again.

After losing four consecutive games, Jared Frick’s Eddies picked up their second straight win over visiting Brandywine 71-42 Tuesday.

The non-league triumph improves Edwardsburg to 9-5 overall, while Brandywine falls to 7-6.

Edwardsburg, which started the year 7-1 before losing four straight, was coming off a big 44-39 Wolverine Conference win over first-place Plainwell last Friday.

But Brandywine gave Edwardsburg all it could handle

in the opening half and trailed its hosts by just 10 points, 35-25, at intermission.

But the Eddies locked down defensively in the third quarter and outscored the Bobcats 20-0 to build a commanding 55-25 advantage entering the final period.

Edwardsburg outscored Brandywine 18-17 in the fourth quarter to pick up the win over its backyard rivals.

Nine different Edwardsburg players got involved in the scoring led by senior sharpshooter Brody Schimpa with 18 points, including three triples.

Michael Wright, a 5-11 junior, added 15 for the Eddies, including four triples, while Joe Shively finished with eight, senior postplayer Matt Anders (6-5) had seven, freshman Reed Gates and senior Conor Solarek tossed in six each and

Blaise Crist added five.

Shively also had a pair of three pointers for Edwardsburg.

“Conor has been great all year and is one of our best athletes. He’s become more assertive and that’s really helped our team. Michael Wright has started the last two games and hit alot of nice shots for us tonight. Reed is one of the most fundamental freshmen I’ve every coached and Blaise has embraced his recent role of coming off the bench and providing the little intangibles,” Frick said.

Edwardsburg ended the night shooting 28-of-50 (56 percent) from the floor, including 10 three-pointers, and 5-of-8 (63 percent) at the foul stripe.

“We shot the ball very well

See BEAT, Page B2

FOOTBALL

An unforgettable experience

By MAXWELL HARDEN  
max.harden@leaderpub.com

As the final seconds ticked away in last week’s College Football National Championship Game, I stared out into a crowd filled with Scarlet and Gray and Green and Gold.

Confetti streamed down from the rafters as Ohio State players celebrated winning the ninth national championship in program history. The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame walked off the field for the last time,

ending a magical season few saw coming after the loss to Northern Illinois in Week 2.

Walking onto the field after the game and hearing the sea of scarlet and grey roar triumphantly was an experience that will forever be seared into my brain. As a young lad who grew up dreaming of working for ESPN, being able to experience a national championship game in-person after watching so many

See EXPERIENCE, Page B3



MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS  
Leader Publications Managing Editor Maxwell Harden and Photographer Amelio Rodriguez pose for a photo on the field Monday, Jan. 20 after the conclusion of the 2025 national championship game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Ga.

BOWLING

Niles, Edwardsburg split bowling matchup

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — The Niles Vikings bowling team faced off against Edwardsburg on Monday.

The Niles boys ended up winning their match 17-13. The Edwardsburg boys

came into the game sitting at 5-0 and Niles sitting at 2-2. Niles junior Aidan Kidwell led the Vikings with a series of 398 and sophomore Gunner Sherer had a 374 while sophomore

See SPILT, Page B3



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTI WESTON

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Conor Solarek (11) from Edwardsburg gets inside position to score against Brandywine’s Eljhia Burt (3) in the first half of Tuesday’s game on the Eddies’ home floor.

# Lady Rangers shake off rust in 61-22 rout of Hartford

By **SCOTT HASSINGER**  
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Stephon Luckey is pleased with how his Cassopolis girls basketball team is handling adversity as the season nears its mid-point.

The team's 61-22 Southwest 10 Conference win on Jan. 24 at home over Hartford was a good example of the progress the Rangers have made.

Cassopolis improves to 4-3 overall and 4-2 in the league, good enough for a fourth-place tie with Lawrence. Hartford falls to 1-5 in the league and 1-8 overall.

"Collectively we haven't shot that well over the last six games. Tonight was probably our best shooting performance of the season on free throws and from the floor," Luckey said.

Cassopolis made 23-of-75 attempts (31 percent) from the floor and 10-of-19 (53 percent)

at the free-throw line.

The Rangers were led by sharpshooting junior guard Ryley Bowsher, who fired in a game-high 22 points, including three of her team's five triples in the contest.

"When Ryley is knocking down her shots the rest of the team does pretty well. She's a very good shooter," Luckey said.

Freshman guard Madison Nelson added 15 points, while junior JaMya Hart and freshman Madalynn Yakel added five points each and Mackenzie Boyer, Nola Hawkins and Cheyenne Redmond all ended the night with three points apiece.

Luckey likes the spark that Nelson and Yakel since joining the varsity fulltime.

"Madison does a little bit of everything for us on the floor. Madalynn is a good rebounder and leads by example. They both bring alot of energy for us," Luckey said.



**SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS**  
**Cassopolis freshman Madison Nelson (23) drives in for a layup in the second half in last week's 61-22 home win over Hartford.**

The Rangers also held a 31-28 rebounding advantage against the Huskies.

Yakel pulled down six rebounds for Cassopolis, while Bowsher grabbed five and Janayla Franklin added four.

Hartford was led in scoring by Sianelli Rodriguez with six points and Graci Kinchen finished with four.

The Huskies shot 8-of-40 (20 percent) from the floor and 5-of-15 (33 percent) at the foul stripe.

Cassopolis bolted out to a 23-6 lead by the end of the first quarter thanks to Bowsher's 12 points, including one triple.

# Brandywine hoops teams sweep Buchanan in Homecoming doubleheader

By **NICK SHELTON**  
Leader Publications Contributor

BRANDYWINE — Homecoming night at the Bobcat Den was electric, as both the Brandywine Lady Cats and Bobcats secured victories over the Buchanan Bucks Friday, Jan. 24 in Lakeland Conference matchups. The Lady Cats set the tone early with a 65-36 win, followed by the Bobcats closing out the evening with a hard-fought 60-46 victory in the boys' game.

## Lady Cats Dominate Early and Cruise to Victory

The Brandywine Lady Cats extended their perfect season to 12-0 with a 65-36 win over the Buchanan Bucks.

Adeline Gill led the Lady Cats with 18 points, while Lily Gill and Miley Young each scored 11. Young's buzzer-beating three-pointer at the end of the third quarter brought the home crowd to its feet. Adelyn Drotoz added nine points, including back-to-back three-pointers to open the game, and Mackenna Price contributed 8 points, many coming in the final quarter.

The Lady Cats started strong, jumping out to a 22-7 lead in the first quarter, with Drotoz setting the tone early and Brandywine's full-court press forcing turnovers. Buchanan responded in the second quarter behind Alyssa Carson and Justyce Cashier, but Brandywine's consistent defense and timely shooting helped the Lady Cats take a 32-17 lead into halftime.

The second half featured more Brandywine dominance. Ireland

Prenkert nailed a crucial three-pointer early in the third quarter, and Young's buzzer-beater to close the period extended the lead to 53-30. With the game in hand, Coach Josh Hood gave his reserves valuable minutes in the fourth quarter to close out the victory.

### Final Stats — Lady Cats:

- Adeline Gill: 18 points
  - Lily Gill: 11 points
  - Miley Young: 11 points
  - Adelyn Drotoz: 9 points
  - Mackenna Price: 8 points
- ### Final Stats — Lady Bucks:
- Alyssa Carson: 12 points
  - Kate Ailes: 8 points
  - Justyce Cashier: 7 points
  - Akirrah Robinson: 4 points
  - Caitlyn Horvath: 3
  - Aspen Berry: 2 points

With the win, the Lady Cats improved to 5-0 in the Lakeland Conference and remain at the top of the standings.

"We were proud of our fast start, but we need to learn to sustain that energy for a 32-minute game," said Brandywine Coach Josh Hood. "We got complacent for the final three quarters, and it felt like Buchanan, for a good portion of the game, played with more effort. Credit to them and their coach for battling. I need to do a better job of motivating our team to play at a level that warrants success come March. I'm excited to watch our team moving forward against a schedule that is one of the toughest in the state."

## Bobcats Stay Composed in Victory

The Brandywine boys

team (3-2, 7-5) capped off the evening with a 60-46 victory over Buchanan (1-4,7-5), using early momentum and late-game composure to secure the win.

Elijhia Burt led the Bobcats with 17 points, while Nylen Goins contributed 16. Will Hubbard added 10 points, and Ryder Richard and Emerson Gogley chipped in with 9 and 8 points, respectively.

Brandywine opened the game with an 8-0 run, fueled by quick baskets from Burt and Goins. Buchanan responded with a three-pointer from Jake Franklin to trim the lead to 10-7, but the Bobcats ended the first quarter with an 11-9 edge.

The second quarter saw Brandywine take control, as Gogley hit a key three-pointer and Burt added strong finishes around the basket. The Bobcats' defense stifled Buchanan's offense, allowing Brandywine to extend their lead to 26-16 by halftime.

"It was very important for us to get that win tonight," said Head Coach Nathan Knapp. "We haven't played in a week and a half with all the delays and the game cancellations. We were a little bit out of rhythm. Just glad the kids weathered the storm. They kept Buchanan at bay most of the game. Showed times when they were real resilient on defense, but then we had our breakdowns. We've got to get back to the drawing board."

The third quarter was marked by turnovers and rushed shots from both teams, but Burt's late three-pointer gave Brandywine a 38-27 lead



**PHOTOS COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN**

heading into the final period. Buchanan opened the fourth quarter with a quick bucket, but the Bobcats maintained their lead, with Richard's steal and layup pushing the score to 43-31 with just over six minutes remaining.

"When they got it down to seven, we didn't fold," Knapp said. "We stayed within our system, took care of the ball, and were trying to get stops. We couldn't get all the stops we wanted, so we've got some work to do. But I was real happy with the way the kids played. They came out defensively sharp, and they did a good job in the first half. The third quarter was a really good quarter for us—not offensively, but defensively—and it was awesome to get that win tonight for the kids."

Knapp also praised several players for their contributions.

"Elijhia Burt had a heck of a game for us. Nylen had moments tonight, and Big Will did a good

job. We did a good job rebounding, and I'm happy as a coach."

Goins and Richard combined for four clutch free throws in the closing moments to secure the win.

### Final Stats — Bobcats:

- Elijhia Burt: 17 points
- Nylen Goins: 16 points
- Will Hubbard: 10 points
- Ryder Richard: 9 points
- Emerson Gogley: 8 points

### Final Stats — Bucks:

- Logan Wiggins: 14 points
- Liam McBeth: 8 points
- Will Carson: 7 points
- Tyler Frame: 2 points
- Preston Payne: 3 points
- Karmine Brown: 4 points
- Jake Franklin: 4 points
- Owen Thompson: 4 points

The Bobcats' win capped off a memorable homecoming night, with the energy from the crowd fueling Brandywine to a sweep over their conference rivals.

# BEAT

Continued from page B1

tonight. It makes us very difficult to guard when we get a lot of different guys involved in the scoring. We have a busy schedule ahead of us, including another big conference game on Friday at Otsego. It's good to see us picking up the intensity again," Frick said.

"We're excited. This is a good win for us over a program that still has a lot of that championship culture. I know they lost (Goins) in the second half, but they are well-coached and they have other guys who play hard."

Edwardsburg outrebounded Brandywine 27-19.

Solorek and Schimpa led the Eddies on the boards with six each, while Anders pulled down five and Wright and Gates grabbed four apiece.

After falling behind 5-0 to start the game, Brandywine pulled within six points (14-8) late in the first quarter on Goins' drive to the basket. But Shively, Maverick Gates and Wright all hit triples to close out the period and put the Eddies in front 26-16.

Brandywine whittled its deficit to nine points twice during the second quarter. Anders made a late free throw to provide the Eddies with the double-digit lead (35-25) at halftime.

Brandywine played the entire second half without star junior scorer Nylen Goins who suffered an ankle injury late in the second quarter. Goins sat the bench the rest of the game with ice on the ankle.

Also missing from the Bobcat lineup was sophomore point guard Emerson Gogley who was sick.

Ryder Richard, Brandywine's 6-foot-0 junior, picked up the slack for the Bobcats scoring a game-high 22 points. Goins added 10 in the first half, while Elijhia Burt and Will Hubbard added four each and J.J. Henry finished with two points for the Bobcats, who were 17-of-51 (33.3 percent) from the floor and 5-of-13 (38.4 percent) at the free-throw line.

Leading rebounders for Brandywine on the night were Richard with six boards and Hubbard scooped up five.

Brandywine head coach Nathan Knapp admitted his team missed Goins' presence on the floor in the second half.

"Nylen makes a difference for us when he's on the floor. You still have to be able to defend and rebound though and we just didn't do a very good job in those two areas tonight. Edwardsburg is too good of a team to give them wide-open shots. We talked at halftime about when bad things happen you must rally around each other and step up and play. Our effort was there tonight, but we just made too many mistakes," Knapp said.

Brandywine visits Dowagiac at 7:15 p.m. Friday in Lakeland Conference action.

# SMC men split against Lansing, KVCC; women fall

## COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — SMC men's basketball team split its conference games this week – earning its first MCCA Western Conference win of the season – while the women's team lost two tough matchups.

The men's team first MCCA Western Conference win of the season Saturday against the Lansing Stars, 86-76, in the 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse. The Roadrunners jumped out to a 12-4 lead and never looked back, using some timely 3-point shooting to stretch the lead to 13 at the break. The second half featured mini runs both ways but was played basically even and

SMC was able to notch the win. Freshman guard Damontae May set the school record for single game assists with 14, and added five points. Sophomore Aries Hull went off for 29 points and 10 rebounds, yet another double-double to add to his collection. Sophomore RJ Davis shot 6 of 13 from long range (46%) for 21 points, and freshman Davion Goins added 13 points.

Monday night's makeup game at KVCC was a different story, as the Cougars overwhelmed the Roadrunners, 95-64. SMC is now 12-8 overall and 1-4 in the conference, currently in seventh place and out of the tournament field. They get a chance to improve their record on Wednesday, Jan-

uary 29, in a road contest at Glen Oaks.

## Women's team drops two conference tilts

SMC Women's Basketball got a glimpse of the conference challenge this week as the Roadrunners dropped two MCCA West games to Lansing and KVCC.

On Saturday, SMC Women's Basketball suffered their first home loss of the season to the Lansing Stars, 74-57. The game was tied at 18 after one quarter and the Roadrunners were down by just three at the half to the conference leaders. But in the third quarter, Lansing broke the game open en route to a 17-point victory over the

home team. The Roadrunners shot just 36% from the field and 43% from the free-throw line, committing 22 turnovers in the contest.

On Monday night in Kalamazoo, in the makeup game postponed from last Wednesday, SMC fell behind the Cougars early and even further in the second quarter, going into the half down nine points. The fourth quarter comeback fell short and the Roadrunners lost 55-50.

The Green and Gold are now 13-7 overall and 2-3 in the Western Conference, sitting just inside the tournament field in fifth place, with another quick turnaround and a visit to Glen Oaks on Wednesday, January 29.

DAILY DATA

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**BENTON HARBOR 78, DOWAGIAC 49**  
**At Benton Harbor**  
DOWAGIAC (49): Jamal Williams 10, Lamone Moore Jr. 6, Devin Rock 2, Isaiah Fitchett 16, Chase Frazier 8, Riley McCaffery 7. Totals 16 13-16 49.  
BENTON HARBOR (78): Latrell Johnson 8, Jkwon Lewis 31, Avion Wilson 1, Desean Mathison 8, Zamier Clayton 2, Terry Wilson 2, Kesean Hobbs 20, Careem Williams 2, Damonee McBride 2, Harden 2. Totals 33 5-11 78.  
Dowagiac 4 18 36 49  
Benton Harbor 15 32 55 78  
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 4 (Fitchett 3, Williams 1), Benton Harbor 7 (Lewis 5, Hobbs 2). Total fouls: Dowagiac 11, Benton Harbor 15. Records: Dowagiac 1-11 (0-5 Lakeland Conference), Benton Harbor 10-3 (4-1 Lakeland Conference).

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**BRANDYWINE 60, BUCHANAN 46**  
**At Niles**  
BUCHANAN (46): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 3, Liam McBeth 8, Karmine Brown 4, Jake Franklin 4, Logan Wiggins 14, Will Carson 7, Owen Thompson 4, Ari Johnson 0. Totals 20 2-10 46.  
BRANDYWINE (60): Nylen Goins 16, Elijahia Burt 17, Will Hubbard 10, Ryder Richard 9, Emerson Gogley 8. Totals 18 20-32 60  
Buchanan 9 16 27 46  
Brandywine 11 26 38 60  
3-point baskets: Buchanan 4 (Payne 1, McBeth 1, Franklin 1, Carson 1), Brandywine 4 (Burt 2, Richard 1, Gogley 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Buchanan 21 (Brown, Franklin), Brandywine 10. Records: Buchanan 7-5 (1-4 Lakeland Conference), Brandywine 7-5 (3-2 Lakeland Conference).  
Highlights: Brandywine scored the game's first eight points and led by 13 early in the third quarter. Buchanan never got closer than six after that.  
**NILES 68, THREE RIVERS 42**  
**At Niles**  
THREE RIVERS (42): Brayden Carpenter 16, Blake Stewart 2, Jace Gray 8, Lamonta Stone 2, Matheus Pontes 3, Carter Langston 1, Zander Barth 4, Max Burg 6. Totals 18 3-6 42.  
NILES (68): Quinton King Jr. 7, Brayden Favors 15, Andre Wells 20, Ceon Kirtdoll 5, Acie Kirtdoll 6, Derek Hill Jr. 12, Donovyn Williams 0, Jaymes Phillips 3. Totals 26 7-7 68.  
Three Rivers 10 16 32 42  
Niles 18 38 51 68  
3-point baskets: Three Rivers 3 (Carpenter 2, Pontes 1), Niles 9 (Wells 2, A. Kirtdoll 2, Hill Jr. 2, King Jr. 1, C. Kirtdoll 1, Phillips 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Three Rivers 15 (Gray), Niles 15. Records: Three Rivers 4-8 (2-6 Wolverine Conference), Niles 7-6 (6-3 Wolverine Conference).  
**EDWARDSBURG 44, PLAINWELL 39**  
**At Edwardsburg**  
PLAINWELL (39): Drew Rayman 4, Drew Nelson 4, Chib Amaezechi 9, John Amazechi 8, Trason Stephenson 3, Chad Winenger 8, Luke Filkins 3. Totals 15 7-11 39.  
EDWARDSBURG (44): Joe Shively 9, Brody Schimpa 18, Conor Solarek 9, Blaise Crist 6, Reed Gates 2, Matt Anders 0, Michael Wright 0. Totals 17 4-8 44.  
Plainwell 8 19 30 39  
Edwardsburg 8 15 27 44  
3-point baskets: Plainwell 2 (Rayman 1, Stephenson 1), Edwardsburg 6 (Schimpa 4, Shively 1, Solarek 1). Total fouls: Plainwell 13, Edwardsburg 13. Records: Plainwell 7-2 (5-2 Wolverine Conference), Edwardsburg 8-5 (4-4 Wolverine Conference).  
Highlight: Schimpa scored nine in the fourth quarter as Edwardsburg outscored Plainwell 17-9 to rally for the win.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**BRANDYWINE 65, BUCHANAN 36**  
**At Niles**  
BUCHANAN (36): Caitlin Horvath 3, Aspen Berry 2, Justyce Cashier 7, Katie Ailes 8, Alyssa Carson 12, Akirrah Robinson 4, Cam Carlson 0, Evyn Pruett 0. Totals 12 7-17 36  
BRANDYWINE (65): Adeline Gill 18, Karleigh Byrd 2, Adelyn Drotosz 9, Ireland Prenkert 6, Macken-

na Price 8, Lily Gill 11, Miley Young 11. Totals 27 3-6 65.  
Buchanan 7 17 30 36  
Brandywine 22 32 53 65  
3-point baskets: Buchanan 5 (Carson 3, Horvath 1, Robinson 1), Brandywine 8 (Drotosz 3, Prenkert 2, A. Gill 1, L. Gill 1, Young 1). Total fouls: Buchanan 11, Brandywine 12. Records: Buchanan 6-6 (2-3 Lakeland Conference), Brandywine 12-0 (5-0 Lakeland Conference).  
Highlights: Brandywine forced 36 turnovers and used them to scored 32 points. Brandywine raced out of the gate to an 18-3 first-quarter lead and led by as many as 33.  
**THREE RIVERS 50, NILES 46**  
**At Niles**  
THREE RIVERS (46): Savannah Headley 2, Dani Glass 7, Jennaya Decker 25, Natalie McGahan 6, R. Reyes 5, Alyssa Stalker 2, Jersey Roehrs 3. Totals 18 10-10 48.  
NILES (46): Jessie Thornton 12, Tanaya Brown 17, Khloe Matlock 2, Ari Gerrits 3, Mia Holmes 3, Jaliyah Woods 1, Maddie Zache 6, Gianna Ball 2, Totals 11 20-20 46.  
Three Rivers 11 28 39 50  
Niles 8 9 30 46  
3-point baskets: Three Rivers 2 (Glass 1, Roehrs 1), Niles 4 (Zache 2, Holmes 1, Thornton 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Three Rivers 22 (McGahan), Niles 21 (Gerrits). Records: Three Rivers 3-7 (2-5 Wolverine Conference), Niles 2-9 (0-8 Wolverine Conference).  
**CASSOPOLIS 61, HARTFORD 22**  
**At Cassopolis**  
HARTFORD (22): Graci Kinchen 4, Lillian Wolf 2, Yajaira Reyna 2, Ti'Onna Maeder 1 Destiny Davis-Russell 3, Rebecca Johnson 2, Savannah Mullins 2, Karina Lopez 0, Sianelli Rodriguez 6. Totals 8 5-15 22.  
CASSOPOLIS (61): Makenzie Boyer 3, Janayla Franklin 2, JaMya Hart 5, Aleah Dahlgren 2, Madelynn Yakel 5, Maliyah Flowers 1, Nola Hawkins 3, Cheyenne Redmond 3, Madison Nelson 15, Ryley Bowsher 22. Totals 23 10-19 61.  
Hartford 6 12 18 22  
Cassopolis 23 40 55 61  
3-point baskets: Hartford 1 (Davis-Russell 1), Cassopolis 5 (Bowsher 3, Boyer 1, Nelson 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Hartford 17 (Kitchen), Cassopolis 14. Records: Hartford 1-8 (1-5 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 4-3 (4-2 Southwest 10).  
**EDWARDSBURG 52, PLAINWELL 44**  
**At Edwardsburg**  
PLAINWELL (44): Sophie Munch 6, Alyssa Weldon 12, Tessie Keil 2, Alayna Ranney 5, Anna Overway 17, Kaylee VanAtter 2. Totals 17 7-12 44.  
EDWARDSBURG (52): Ella Zache 4, Maddie Pobuda 19, Erin Solarek 5, Kourtney Zarycki 15, Mya Eberlein 5, Kya Shier 4. Totals 18 11-18 52.  
Plainwell 6 15 29 44  
Edwardsburg 11 33 45 52  
3-point baskets: Plainwell 3 (Weldon 2, Ranney 1), Edwardsburg 5 (Pobuda 4, Zarycki 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Plainwell 19 (Weldon), Edwardsburg 12. Records: Plainwell 3-7 (2-5 Wolverine Conference), Edwardsburg 10-3 (6-2 Wolverine Conference).  
**DOWAGIAC 64, BENTON HARBOR 18**  
**At Dowagiac**  
BENTON HARBOR (18): Jaiden Tackett 0, Za'Keira Baxter 6, Lovely Douglas 2, Keaira Lewis 1, Miracle Green 3, Javie Swift 3, Harmony Smith 3. Totals 6 6-16 18.  
DOWAGIAC (64): Claire Hess 3, Marlie Carpenter 19, Zabrina Shivers 9, Brenna Mott 9, Niya Moss 3, Evie Lock 4, Ava Nate 2, Olivia McIntosh 11, Bree Campbell 2, Clark 2. Totals 26 9-27 64.  
Benton Harbor 4 11 13 18  
Dowagiac 15 37 56 64  
3-point baskets: Benton Harbor 0, Dowagiac 3 (Shivers 1, Mott 1, McIntosh 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Benton Harbor 19 (Tackett), Dowagiac 18 (Moss). Records: Benton Harbor 0-8 (0-5 Lakeland Conference), Dowagiac 4-7 (2-3 Lakeland Conference).

MONDAY, JAN. 27

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**BRANDYWINE 45, LAKESHORE 37**  
**At Niles**  
LAKESHORE (37): Megan Wursler 5, Lily Kleiman 2, Helaina Mihalik 2, Paige Lies 13, Emily Lock-

man 15. Totals 14 7-10 37  
BRANDYWINE (45): Adeline Gill 17, Karleigh Byrd 5, Adelyn Drotosz 12, Mackenna Price 2, Lily Gill 1, Miley Young 8, Niyah Mason 0. Totals 16 7-17 45.  
Lakeshore 8 13 24 37  
Brandywine 15 23 30 45  
3-point baskets: Lakeshore 2 (Lies 2), Brandywine 6 (Drotosz 4, A. Gill 2). Total fouls: Lakeshore 16, Brandywine 13. Records: Lakeshore 8-2, Brandywine 13-0.  
**LAWTON 69, CASSOPOLIS 41**  
**At Cassopolis**  
LAWTON (69): Bailey Allison 13, Gia Bridges 6, Megan Robertson 6, Olivia Bowen 10, Lily McCorry 2, Haiie Bishop 8, McKenzie Terpstra 21, Ally O'Brien 3. Totals 26 10-21 69.  
CASSOPOLIS (41): Mackenzie Boyer 4, Janayla Franklin 2, JaMya Hart 5, Aleah Dahlgren 3, Madelynn Yakel 6, Maliyah Flowers 0, Cheyenne Redmond 2, Madison Nelson 5, Marlana Antidel 2, Ryley Bowsher 12. Totals 12 11-19 41.  
Lawton 14 35 50 69  
Cassopolis 2 19 31 41  
3-point baskets: Lawton 7 (Terpstra 5, Allison 2), Cassopolis 6 (Bowsher 3, Nelson 1, Dahlgren 1, Hart 1). Total fouls: Lawton 16, Cassopolis 18. Records: Lawton 9-2, Cassopolis 4-4  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**BUCHANAN 71, MICHIGAN LUTHERAN 41**  
**At Buchanan**  
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (41): Ty Johnson 13, Khan-nor Hamilton 3, Ben Ward 1, Ethan Eggert 4, Micah Herbst 5, Daniel Pearson 3, Isaih Gill 6, Conner Olson 6. Totals 14 5-14 41.  
BUCHANAN (71): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 3, Liam McBeth 2, Karmine Brown 24, Jake Franklin 9, Darius Williams 2, Logan Wiggins 12, Will Carson 10, Owen Thompson 0, Ari Johnson 2. Totals 27 10-18 71.  
Michigan Lutheran 9 20 30 41  
Buchanan 25 36 57 71  
3-point baskets: Michigan Lutheran 8 (Johnson 4, Hamilton 1, Eggert 1, Herbst 1, Pearson 1), Buchanan 7 (Brown 5, Payne 1, Franklin 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Michigan Lutheran 15, Buchanan 18 (Carson). Records: Michigan Lutheran 9-3, Buchanan 8-5.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**EDWARDSBURG 71, BRANDYWINE 42**  
**At Edwardsburg**  
BRANDYWINE (42): J.J. Henry 2, Nylen Goins 10, Elijahia Burt 4, Will Hubbard 4, Ryder Richard 22. Totals 17 5-13 42.  
EDWARDSBURG (71): Joe Shively 8, Brody Schimpa 18, Maverick Gates 3, Conor Solarek 6, Blaise Crist 5, Michael Wright 15, Ayden Billingsley 3, Reed Gates 6, Matt Anders 7. Totals 28 5-8 71.  
Brandywine 16 25 25 42  
Edwardsburg 26 35 55 71  
3-point baskets: Brandywine 3 (Goins 2, Richard 1), Edwardsburg 10 (Wright 4, Schimpa 3, Shively 2, M. Gates 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Brandywine 13 (Burt), Edwardsburg 17. Records: Brandywine 7-6, Edwardsburg 9-5  
**ST. JOSEPH 63, NILES 62**  
**At St. Joseph**  
NILES (62): Quinton King Jr. 7, Brayden Favors 10, Andre Wells 27, Acie Kirtdoll 12, Derek Hill Jr. 6, Donovyn Williams 0. Totals 22 10-17 62.  
ST. JOSEPH (63): Bryce Vuitech 10, Cole Caplea 10, Ty Dellay 4, Jon Pender 18, Johnson 3, Jacob Dibkey 2, Eli Caid 11, Kotowich 2, David Devore 3. Totals 20 12-22 63.  
Niles 12 29 41 62  
St. Joseph 21 44 52 63  
3-point baskets: Niles 8 (Wells 4, Hill Jr. 2, A. Kirtdoll 1, King 1), St. Joseph 11 (Pender 5, Caplea 2, Caid 2, Devore 1, Vuitech 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Niles 22 (Favors, A. Kirtdoll), St. Joseph 19 (Caplea). Records: Niles 7-7, St. Joseph 2-10  
**LAKESHORE 66, DOWAGIAC 29**  
**At Stevensville**  
DOWAGIAC (29): Jamal Williams 3, Lamone Moore Jr. 5, Kaleb Smith 3, Artie Ruiz 4, Chase Frazier 8, Riley McCaffery 6. Totals 13 2-4 29.  
LAKESHORE (66): Brady Harris 1, Owen Timmons 0, Lane Fry 12, Ethan Thomas 3, Luke Heyn 12,

Garrett Thomas 6, Brayden Holok 24, Alex Toothman 2, Wallin 3, E. Neidlinger 3. Totals 24 10-15 66.  
Dowagiac 8 13 26 29  
Lakeshore 15 34 57 66  
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 1 (Smith 1), Lakeshore 8 (G. Thomas 2, Fry 2, Holok 1, Wallin 1, E. Neidlinger 1, E. Thomas 1). Total fouls: Dowagiac 16, Lakeshore 10. Records: Dowagiac 1-12, Lakeshore 7-4  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**EDWARDSBURG 65, QUINCY 38**  
**At Edwardsburg**  
QUINCY (38): Kendyl Musiclewicz 7, Deziray Skirka 6, Miley Poindexter 9, Olivia Davenporty 7, Ashlyn Fickle 7, Addison Hasten 2. Totals 11 10-16 38.  
EDWARDSBURG (65): Ella Zache 12, Maddie Pobuda 21, Reaghan Jenks 3, Erin Solarek 5, Nan DuFour 1, Kourtney Zarycki 12, Mya Eberlein 5, Kya Shier 6. Totals 26 3-5 65.  
Quincy 12 22 33 38  
Edwardsburg 18 37 51 65  
3-point baskets: Quincy 6 (Poindexter 3, Musiclewicz 2, Davenport 1), Edwardsburg 10 (Zache 4, Pobuda 3, Jenks 1, Solarek 1, Zarycki 1). Total fouls: Quincy 4, Edwardsburg 13. Records: Quincy 6-5, Edwardsburg 11-3  
**NILES 55, ST. JOSEPH 52**  
**At Niles**  
ST. JOSEPH (52): Megan Painter 0, Tess Kapelke 12, Lauer Wright 23, Alana Razor 4, Ava Rommel 13. Totals 17 14-14 52.  
NILES (55): Jessie Thornton 18, Tanaya Brown 15, Maddie Zache 6, Kayla Kiggins 12, Ari Gerrits 4, Mia Holmes 0. Totals 17 13-13 55.  
St. Joseph 14 15 26 46 52  
Niles 11 23 27 46 55  
3-point baskets: St. Joseph 4 (Wright 4), Niles 8 (Kiggins 3, Brown 2, Zache 2, Thornton 1). Total fouls (fouled out): St. Joseph 20 (Painter, Kapelke), Niles 19 (Gerrits). Records: St. Joseph 7-2, Niles 3-9  
Highlight: Thornton scored six in the overtime for Niles.  
**ALLEGAN 53, DOWAGIAC 42**  
**At Allegan**  
DOWAGIAC (42): Shamyra Clark 6, Marlie Carpenter 12, Zabrina Shivers 2, Brenna Mott 3, Niya Moss 5, Evie Lock 2, Olivia McIntosh 12. Totals 16 5-7 42.  
ALLEGAN (53): Jayden VandenAkker 3, Alyssa Macherzak 3, Bailey Meade 16, Maddie Antoviak 12, Elija Ziemelis 7, Hayden Maka 12. Totals 21 5-8 53.  
Dowagiac 5 23 33 42  
Allegan 10 20 40 53  
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 5 (Clark 2, McIntosh 2, Moss 1), Allegan 6 (Meade 2, Maka 2, Macherzak 1, Ziemelis 1). Total fouls: Dowagiac 8, Allegan 10. Records: Dowagiac 4-8, Allegan 6-4  
**STURGIS 32, BUCHANAN 26**  
**At Buchanan**  
STURGIS (32): Angela Cary 6, Addison Eickler 4, Kirder Smith 4, Maddy Webb 8, Sydney Bir 9, Cora Phillips 1, Kennedy Finnerman 0. Totals 12 7-19 32.  
BUCHANAN (26): Caitlin Horvath 0, Aspen Berry 2, Evyn Pruett 3, Justyce Cashier 5, Katie Ailes 8, Alyssa Carson 8. Totals 10 5-13 26.  
Sturgis 9 20 26 32  
Buchanan 6 16 24 26  
3-point baskets: Sturgis 1 (Bir 1), Buchanan 1 (Pruett 1). Total fouls: Sturgis 15, Buchanan 17. Records: Sturgis 7-6, Buchanan 6-7  
**CASSOPOLIS 42, DECATUR 31**  
**At Decatur**  
CASSOPOLIS (42): Mackenzie Boyer 3, JaMya Hart 4, Madelynn Yakel 9, Maliyah Flowers 1, Nola Hawkins 4, Madison Nelson 4, Ryley Bowsher 17. Totals 15 6-11 42.  
DECATUR (31): Hannah Northrup 2, Abby Bauschke 14, Enedelia Calderon 3, Sienna Potter 4, Myah Richards 8. Totals 11 7-20 31.  
Cassopolis 4 18 35 42  
Decatur 13 21 24 31  
3-point baskets: Cassopolis 6 (Bowsher 3, Nelson 1, Hawkins 1, Boyer 1), Decatur 2 (Bauschke 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Cassopolis 20 (Flowers, Nelson), Decatur 11. Records: Cassopolis 5-4 (5-2 Southwest 10), Decatur 6-5 (5-4 Southwest 10).

EXPERIENCE

Continued from page B1

on television was unforgettable. Standing next to players like Chris Carter and journalists like Bruce Feldman as their peer was a gratifying experience for this friendly neighborhood reporter.

If only that young lad could see me now. I wonder what he would say?

Obtaining credentials in order to experience the game in person was only possible thanks to the efforts of the late great Scott Novak, who over the span of his 43-year career cultivated a relationship with Notre Dame that continues to stand today and will going forward. Months after his passing, he continues to open doors for me that I did not know even existed.

Making the moment all the more special was the presence of Amelio Rodriguez, a longtime friend of Scott's and a photographer who for years captured sports moments for Leader Publications.

As for the Fighting Irish, making the championship is no easy feat –

it takes a combination of hard work, attention to detail and a little bit of luck. I think head coach Marcus Freeman has developed into one of the nation's premier coaches over the course of the season and has the recruiting acumen to match.

I will always remember the heroes of players like Riley Leonard, Jeremiah Love, Howard Cross, Christian Gray and many more who willed this team to playoff victories over Indiana, Georgia and Penn State while engineering a comeback against Ohio State that fell just short. While the loss is a bitter pill to swallow, Freeman and his returning players now know what it takes to win the "big one." The loss does not change the fact that Notre Dame has returned to its status as an elite college program and figures to be in the playoff mix for years to come.

*Maxwell Harden is managing editor for Leader Publications. He can be reached at max.harden@leader-pub.com*



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTI WESTON

SPLIT

Continued from page B1

Shawn Atkins earned a 310

and senior Adam Jackson 300.

On the girls' side, Edwardsburg defeated Niles 28-2. The Edwardsburg girls came into this match with a record of 4-0 while the Vikings were at 2-2. Niles' sophomore

Alexis Kidwell led the girls with a 338 series and sophomore Miley Kater had a 279 series. Freshman Maria Avila-Ramirez earned a score of 241 while freshman Kenley Weston added a 217 series.

Classifieds

Marketplace



NILES, BUCHANAN AND  
SURROUNDING AREAS

25 N. 2nd St.  
Niles, MI 49120  
(269) 591-6105

LeaderPub.com  
classifieds@leaderpub.com  
public.notices@leaderpub.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**2025 BOARD OF REVIEW**  
Bertrand Charter Township, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107

**BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE**  
  
The Bertrand Charter Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, Michigan on the following dates:  
  
**Organizational Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.  
  
**Appeal Hearing**  
Monday, March 10, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
  
**Appeal Hearing**  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
  
**Appeal Hearing**  
Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. **By board resolution, residents can protest by letter, provided the protest letter is received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**  
  
The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

|                   |        |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Agricultural      | 50.34% | 0.9932 |
| Commercial        | 48.20% | 1.0412 |
| Residential       | 45.49% | 1.0991 |
| Developmental     | 50.00% | 1.0000 |
| Timber Cutover    | 50.00% | 1.0000 |
| Industrial        | 48.12% | 1.0390 |
| Personal Property | 50.00% | 1.0000 |

  
Property Owners may call the Bertrand Township office phone, **269-695-5001** to set an appointment with the Board of Review. Any questions regarding your assessment may also be directed to Bertrand Township Assessor Angie Story, **269-207-2590**.  
  
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact: Steve Hicks, Supervisor, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 phone **269-695-5001**.  
  
Polly White  
Bertrand Charter Township Clerk  
Posted 01/23/2025

**Employment**

**Job Opportunities**  
  
Assistant Business Unit Leader  
Please send resume to:  
Modineer Company LLC,  
Attn: Sabrina Pesce – HR Mgr.,  
2102 S. 11 th St.,  
Niles, MI 49120.

**Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.**  
  
We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.  
  
**DON'T WAIT!**  
Call TODAY  
269-591-6105

**The Tavern**  
Full-time experienced Cook, Bartender, and Server  
Must be a team player with the ability to multitask with ease in a very busy environment.  
Schedule will be days/nights, weekends no exceptions.  
Great place to work with competitive pay to start with increases.  
**Please no phone calls;**  
Application can be picked up at the bar.

**Merchandise**

**Fuel and Wood**  
  
  
**FIREWOOD SEASON IS HERE!**  
**CALL US TO SET UP YOUR FIREWOOD DELIVERY!**  
We have ranks and cords cut perfect for a wood burner or fireplace!  
**574-217-8279**

**Miscellaneous For Sale**

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)  
Brand Apple  
Model Name MV962LL/A  
Screen Size 13.3 Inches  
Color Space Gray  
Hard Disk Size 256 GB  
CPU Model Core i5  
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB  
Operating System Mac OS  
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor  
Graphics Card Description Integrated  
Asking \$500. It is still in the box.  
  
Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking \$75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.  
  
**Call (269)462-0183**

**Apartments**

Spacious Studio Apartment in Downtown Cassopolis. Lakeview & Walk-In Closet. \$600/ month, 1st & last month due upon occupancy. Call (269)445-2658.

**Transportation**

**Boats & Watercraft**  
  
1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400  
  
  
**2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat**  
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.  
If I do not answer, leave a message.  
Pictures available via text.  
\$17,900.00 OBO.  
574-850-1938  
269-228-1216

**Motorcycles & ATV's**

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. \$2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

**Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**  
  
**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
  
**1-877-591-9950**  
  
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445  
  
  
**FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT**

**Notices**

**Community Events**  
  
University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

**Rentals**

**Apartments**  
  
Karl King Holdings, LLC  
"Where The City's Finest Call Home"  
NOW LEASING!!!  
•Pet Friendly  
•Utilities Included  
•Income-Based Rent  
Apartments for Independent Seniors(62-up, handicap/ disabled)  
515 E.Monroe Street  
South Bend,IN 46601  
574-282-2896  
TTY:1-800-743-3333

**Services**

**Automotive Services**  
  
  
**JUMP STARTS PLUS**  
*Car problems ruining your day?*  
**Call us and we'll be on our way!**  
• Auto Glass Replacement  
• Jump Starts  
• Lock Outs  
• Towing  
• Tire Changes  
• Fast On-site Service  
**269-313-6852**  
**CASH PAID FOR UNWANTED VEHICLES!!! FREE HAUL OFF!!!**

**Clock Repair**

Quality Clock Repair  
Front Street Framery  
801 East Front Street  
Buchanan, MI  
House calls, Free estimates.  
269-409-1031

**Construction**

**Michiana Masonry & Construction**  
All your Masonry needs!  
Chimney Cleaning  
Insured & Bonded  
Senior Discounts  
269-362-1566

**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.**  
  
Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.  
  
Call 205-484-9766 to schedule your free quote!  
  
  
\*Terms and Conditions apply.

**Be prepared before the next power outage.**

Construction

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION

WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARN ROOFING & CONCRETE

65280 M-66 STURGIS, MI 49091

SAM SCHWARTZ 269-221-0159

Junk Removal

**AMERICAN TRASH Trash & Junk Hauling**  
•Appliances•Truck•Trailer  
•Labor•Rental Properties  
•Demo Clean-Outs  
Veteran Owned Company  
Txt/Call: 574-904-8760  
useamericantrash.com

Miscellaneous Services

**AMISH FURNITURE**  
An AMISH LOG HEADBOARD AND Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set. Brand new-never used, sell all for \$375. Call anytime, 989-923-1278.

**AUCTION**  
Quality online auctions with bidding open now! Investment property in Alma, firearms, furniture, power tools, collectibles, kitchen appliances and much more! To bid, see entire catalogs visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call 1-800-835-0495.

February Consignment Auction. Register now! Over 300 lots. Antique bicycle collection, antique typewriter collection, coin collections, Morgan dollars, jewelry, collectables, tools, & more. Visit NarhiAuctions.com for information, to bid. Call 810-266-6474.

Fenton Meat Market online auction! Bid now on quality restaurant equipment, printing scales, freezers, meat slicers, tables, meat cooler, bread slicer, meat grinder and more! Visit www.MichiganAuction-Company.com . Questions? Call 734-223-3277.

**BUILDINGS**  
POLE BARNs We build ALL year long! BUILT BEST BARNs IN A RUSH? CALL US!!!! Best Quality, Best Service, Now In Our 25TH Year! Over 4,000 Buildings In Michigan Call for QUOTES License/Insured 989-205-2534

**BUSINESS SERVICES**  
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

**MATTRESSES**  
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost \$3,995.00 sacrifice for \$875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattress-Man.com. 989-923-1278

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at \$5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

AMISH-built storage sheds starting at \$2,500. We deliver anywhere in Michigan! Call 989-832-1866. DanDanThe-MattressMan.com

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs.Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

**ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable

Miscellaneous Services

Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to \$600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

Omaha Steaks Wines. 12 world class wines (and bonus gifts) for ONLY \$79.99 (plus s/h.) Save \$160! 12 new wine selections plus a FREE \$25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-833-652-3787 and mention code AGJF002 or visit www.GetOSWine.com/sip134

Roofing and Guttering

Bill's Roof Repair Residential & Commercial

•Repairs•New Roofs •Shingles•Flat Roofs •Metal/Rubber-Flashing •Chimney Repairs •Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings

Lifetime Warranty on All Labor Performed Free Estimates Call Us Now!! 269-591-5700 Visit us at: billsroofrepair.com and Facebook!!

MIDWEST ROOFING

Family Owned Since 1984

Lifetime Warranty Shingles Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers

Call (269) 684-7199

Tree Service

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES!!!

•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.

•STUMP GRINDING •STORM DAMAGE

•SEASONED FIREWOOD SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP \*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK

FULLY INSURED. PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

**SECTION 001113 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

**1.01 PROJECT NAME:**  
A. New Wrestling Building Addition  
**1.02 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
A. This project consists of an addition to the Charles O. Zollar Building at Southwestern Michigan College with the intent of providing facilities for the sport of Wrestling. The program includes spaces for a new Wrestling Room, Offices, Locker Rooms, Restrooms for both Men and Women, and exercise facilities.  
**1.03 OWNER:**  
A. Southwestern Michigan College  
58900 Cherry Grove Road  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047  
**1.04 ARCHITECT:**  
A. CARMI Design Group  
210 E. Main Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 487  
Niles, MI 49120  
Phone: 269-663-5073  
**1.05 BID DATE:**  
A. Bids will be received at the Cashier's Office of the Business Office on the first floor of the David C. Briegel Building on the Dowagiac Campus of Southwestern Michigan College until 7:45 AM (local time) on Wednesday February 19, 2025. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.  
B. Bids will be publicly opened at a special meeting of the College's Board of Trustees at 8:00 AM on February 19, 2025, in Room 2112 of the David C. Briegel Building on the Dowagiac Campus and read aloud at this time.  
C. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as "SMC New Wrestling Building Addition" on the front of the submitted envelope.  
**1.06 PRE-BID MEETING:**  
A. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on February 5, 2025, at 2:30 PM (local time) in the Theater located in Room 804 of the Charles O. Zollar Building on the Dowagiac campus. Bidders will have the opportunity to visit the Charles Zollar Building.  
**1.07 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND USE:**  
A. Bid Documents may be

Public Notices

viewed at the following Plan Rooms on or after January 29, 2025.

1. Builders Exchange of Kalamazoo www.builder-exchange.com  
2. Builders Exchange of Lansing www.bxlansing.com  
3. Builders Exchange of Michigan www.grbx.com  
4. Construction Association of Michigan www.BuildwithCAM.com  
5. ConstructConnect www.constructconnect.com  
6. Dodge Construction Network www.construction.com  
7. MACIAF (South Bend, IN) www.constructionsite.org

**1.08 BONDS:**  
A. A five percent (5%) Bid Bond shall accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Labor and Material Bonds, and certificates of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.  
**1.09 OTHER CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION:**  
A. Each bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees or the president of the college.  
B. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of Thirty (30) calendar days after the date set for bid opening.  
C. Public Act 517 of 2012 (effective December 31, 2012) enacted the "Iran Economic Sanctions Act", which prevents "Iran linked businesses" from submitting a bid on a request for proposals (RFP) with a public entity. This law requires that persons submitting bids certify that they are not an "Iran linked business," which is defined as either:  
1. A person engaging in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, including a person that provides oil or liquefied natural gas tankers or products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas for the energy sector of Iran; or  
2. A financial institution that extends credit to another person, if that person will use the credit to engage in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.  
D. Southwestern Michigan College reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids, and to accept any bid that is Deemed most advantageous to the public interest.  
E. The awarded contractor will be required to pay not less than the published Michigan prevailing wage rates and provide certified payroll reports for this project. Current wage determinations are provided in the Project Manual.

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025  
**BIDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**CITY OF NILES**  
**UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Pole Mounted Transformers**

Sealed proposals marked "Bids for Pole Mounted Transformers" will be received by the City of Niles in the Office of the City Clerk, 333 N. Second Street, Ste. 301, Niles, Michigan 49120 until 2:30 PM (local time), Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing the City of Niles with the following materials:  
Fifty-six (56) Pole Mounted Transformers  
The proposal, as well as the specifications for the Pole Mounted Transformers, is on file and may be examined at the Utilities Department Office, 333 N. Second Street, Niles, Michigan where copies may also be obtained. The proposal and specifications may also be obtained under the Utilities link of the City of Niles website at http://nilesmi.org.  
All bidders are required to sign a certificate of compliance that they will comply with all Federal and State non-discrimination laws and regulations.  
The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive irregularities in proposals and to accept the proposal that, in the opinion of the City Council, is most advantageous to the City.

**CITY OF NILES**  
Jeff Dunlap  
City of Niles, Utilities Manager

Niles Daily Star: Feb. 1, 2025  
**BIDS/TRANSFORMERS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 2/25/2025 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #N221. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025  
**L2L-56456**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**BERTRAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP, BERRIEN COUNTY, MI**  
**3835 Buffalo Road**  
**Buchanan, MI 49107**

To: The residents and property owners of Bertrand Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan and any other interested parties.  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** the

Public Notices

Planning Commission of Bertrand Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** the Planning Commission is considering a proposed update to Bertrand Charter Township Master Plan. Copies of the proposed Master Plan update are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall or on the township website, www.bertrandtwpmi.gov.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed update, at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, at the address set forth above, and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing time and place to participate in the discussion. More information can be obtained by calling Bertrand Charter Township at 269-695-5001. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations. Eileen Glick, Zoning Administrator  
Bertrand Charter Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**ONTWA TOWNSHIP**  
**RESIDENTS**

The Ontwa Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 on Thursday, February 20th, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available in the Township Office on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is also posted on the township website at ontwatwp.org The Ontwa Township Board will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven (7) day notice to the Ontwa Township Board by writing or calling the following: Clerk Tina VanBelle, P.O. Box 209 Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112 Phone: 269-663-2347 Notice complies with MCL 141.436 & MCL 211.24e Tina VanBelle  
Ontwa Township Clerk

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**HEARING**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Bertrand Charter Township (EST. 1836)**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OF BERTRAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL BUDGET**  
**HEARING & ANNUAL BERTRAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**FIRE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING**

Will be held at the twp. hall located at 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. The regularly scheduled township board meeting will be called to order at 7 pm. The township budget hearing will be called to order at 7:15 pm. The Fire Assessment District Budget Hearing will be called to order at 7:45 pm. A copy of the proposed budget may be obtained from the township Supervisor Steve Hicks. The public is invited to attend. Posted by: Polly White  
Bertrand Charter Township Clerk  
Date: January 27, 2025  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Bertrand Charter Township Board by writing or by calling the following: Polly White - Clerk (269) 695-5001 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107  
This notice is posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, the Open Meeting Act MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**HEARING 02.13.25**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HOWARD CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN SPECIAL MEETING**

**NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO: RESIDENTS OF HOWARD TOWNSHIP AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** the Howard Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed Township Budgets for fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Howard Township Business Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan, 49120 on March 4, 2025 at 6:00pm. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the

Public Notices

budget is available for public inspection at the Township Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2)(3) and the American With Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Howard Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon four days notice to the Howard Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Howard Township Board by writing or calling the following:  
Howard Township Office  
1345 Barron Lake Road  
Niles, MI 49120  
269-684-0072  
Ask for: Bill Kasprzak, Supervisor or Sheri Wozniak, Clerk

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**MEETING 03.04.25**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES JANUARY 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Fire Department.

**BOARD ACTION**  
**Approved** Meeting Agenda.  
**Approved** the minutes of the 12/23/24 Board Meeting  
**Approved** the financial report with an ending balance of 1,042,678.46 including a CD  
**Approved** the payment of bills through January 21, 2025  
**Approved** the departmental reports  
**Approved** Budget Public Hearing date March 4, 2025 at 6pm.  
**Approved** Recording meeting and putting on YouTube  
**Approved** Purchase of recording equipment of \$5000  
**Approved** Resolution 001-2025 Poverty Guidelines  
**Approved** 002-2025 March Board of Review date  
**Approved** 003-2025 July Board of Review date  
**Public Comment** 13 residents spoke in concern about the millage increase.  
**Adjourn** the meeting at 7:55

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**MINUTE 01.21.25**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SHAWNEE MINI-STORAGE AND M-139 STORAGE 6681 US HIGHWAY 31BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN 49103**

This notice is to inform the following tenants that full payment in credit card, cash or money order is due immediately.

If full payment in credit card, cash or money order is not received By February 10, 2025 the contents of the units will be disposed by Shawnee Mini Storage.

1700 Smith Road Facility:  
Kathi Metz  
Cassie Jo Alden

M139 Location:  
Pamela Kublick

Shawnee Road Location:  
Ashley Ault  
Monique Gordon

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025  
**STORAGE DISPOSAL**

**Legal Notices**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BERRIEN PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FILE NO. 2024-1087-DE-R**

In the matter of JON DAVID PLETCHER, Deceased TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: ASHLEY WATKINS, JON WATKINS JR., CHRISTOPHER WATKINS whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:  
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 10:10 a.m. at Berrien County Courthouse, 811 Port St., St. Joseph, MI before

Legal Notices

Judge Brian S. Berger P34678 for the following purpose: to consider the Petition of Robbie Anderson for Probate of the estate of Jon David Pletcher and for Appointment of Personal Representative of said estate. \*Participation of interested persons may be by ZOOM video-conference, Meeting ID 309-418-1454

01/10/2025

Jeanette M. Jesse P30783 Attorney P.O. Box 147 Buchanan, MI 49107 269-695-3868

Robbie Anderson Petitioner 1855 Bakertown Road Buchanan, MI 49107

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**2024-1087-DE-R**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BERRIEN PUBLICATION OF NOTICE AND CREDITORS NOTICE FILE NO. 2025-006-DE**

**ESTATE OF Dorothy Lone-ta Huber, Deceased. Date of Birth: May 19, 1933**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors and heirs of the deceased whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:  
Be advised that a Petition for Determination of Heirs has been filed with the Court and a hearing on said Petition will be held on **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 9:15 A.M.**, via Zoom teleconference. Please contact the attorney for the estate for instructions.  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The Decedent, DOROTHY LONE-TA HUBER, who lived at 2563 Genes Circle, Niles, Michigan 49120, died October 4, 2024. Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Roxanne Longfellow, named personal representative, or to the probate court at 811 Port Street, Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085 and the named personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.  
January 24, 2025

Mary Kathryn Huber Petitioner 2563 Genes Circle Niles, Michigan 49120

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr. Attorney Post Office Box 1310 Niles, Michigan 49120 - 8310 (269) 683 - 8300

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2025  
**EST/HUBER, D.**

**Do you have available jobs?**

Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT OF BERRIEN COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE CASE NO AND JUDGE 2025-0007-DE HON. MABEL JOHNSON MAYFIELD COURT ADDRESS 811 PORT STREET, FLOOR 4. ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085 269-983-7111**

Estate of Neva Jean McHenry a/l/a Jean McHenry, Deceased Date of Birth August 8, 1925

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Neva Jean McHenry a/l/a Jean McHenry, died on November 8, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Stephani Lynn Wuthnow, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, Floor 4, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

February 1, 2025

Stephani Lynn Wuthnow 3050 Detroit rd. Niles, MI 49120 269-845-5982

James J. Mollison, P17884, 4 South Lincoln Avenue, Niles, MI 49120, 269-684-7600

Niles Daily Star:  
Feb. 1, 2024  
**EST/MCHENRY, N.**

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters.

Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF

Your Entire Purchase\*

10% OFF

Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!\*

Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!

1-877-614-6667

AMERICAN USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

\* See Representative for full warranty details. \*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 1Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366920923, AZ 80C 344072, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 555944, MA 176447, MD MHC111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN 18731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13VH09953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFNW82J2J, WY W605912.

DEALS ON WHEELS

ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

DOWN DELIVERS!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>TOYOTA SIENNA LE</b><br/>Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great</p> <p><b>Only \$9,900</b></p> |  <p><b>PONTIAC SOLSTICE</b><br/>Low miles, great shape... Nice car to drive to car shows</p> <p><b>Only \$13,900</b></p> |  <p><b>2015 HONDA CIVIC LX CVT</b><br/>Automatic with backup camera, cruise control and amazing gas mileage!</p> <p><b>Only \$13,900</b></p> |  <p><b>2018 JEEP COMPASS 4 X 4</b><br/>Super clean widda price that's lean</p> <p><b>Only \$14,777</b></p>                              |  <p><b>2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB</b><br/>Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate</p> <p><b>Only \$15,900</b></p>             |  <p><b>2020 CHEVY TRAX</b><br/>Lease unit with only 39,000 miles</p> <p><b>Only \$17,900</b></p>                                                     |
|  <p><b>2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ</b><br/>Gets 60 MPG!!</p> <p><b>Only \$17,900</b></p>                                |  <p><b>2022 CHEVY MALIBU LT</b><br/>Just in!! MOONROOF BABY!!</p> <p><b>Only \$18,900</b></p>                           |  <p><b>2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4</b><br/>Just in!! These sell fast...</p> <p><b>Only \$19,900</b></p>                                         |  <p><b>2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY</b><br/>Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver</p> <p><b>Only \$19,900</b></p>         |  <p><b>2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4</b><br/>Jacked up Duramax with every toy!</p> <p><b>Must See!!</b></p>                  |  <p><b>2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</b><br/>Just in!! One owner, every option, low, low miles</p> <p><b>Only \$21,900</b></p>                      |
|  <p><b>2019 KIA STINGER</b><br/>OH BABY!!</p> <p><b>Only \$23,900</b></p>                                      |  <p><b>2021 TOYOTA RAV 4 AWD</b><br/>Just in!! Loaded with options, not price</p> <p><b>Only \$24,900</b></p>           |  <p><b>2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4 GO ELECTRIC</b></p> <p><b>Only \$25,900</b></p>                                                                  |  <p><b>2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4</b><br/>Just in!! Save thousands</p> <p><b>Only \$27,900</b></p>                                         |  <p><b>2003 CHEVY SSR</b><br/>BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE<br/>Only 43,000 miles</p> <p><b>Only \$29,900</b></p>                                   |  <p><b>2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4</b><br/>Just in!! Off lease, one owner</p> <p><b>Only \$29,900</b></p>                                             |
|  <p><b>2020 LINCOLN AVIATOR AWD</b><br/>Every option!! Mint condition</p> <p><b>Only \$29,900</b></p>          |  <p><b>2020 JEEP WRANGLER 4 X 4</b><br/>Just in!! Off lease, only 33,000 miles</p> <p><b>Only \$29,900</b></p>          |  <p><b>2024 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD</b><br/>Just in!! Loaded moonroof with teen miles.. MSRP over \$41,000</p> <p><b>Only \$31,900</b></p>      |  <p><b>2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED</b><br/>Just in!! Off lease, 1 owner, like new EVERY OPTION!</p> <p><b>Only \$33,900</b></p> |  <p><b>2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON</b><br/>Lifted and gifted with every option and 37" INCH TIRES!</p> <p><b>Only \$33,900</b></p>           |  <p><b>2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4</b><br/>Just in!! Mint condition with every option &amp; super low miles</p> <p><b>Only \$34,900</b></p> |
|  <p><b>2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4</b><br/>Crew cab, long box Diesel, Low miles</p> <p><b>Only \$34,900</b></p>  |  <p><b>2023 CHEVY COLORADO CREW 4 X 4</b><br/>NEW BODY with extra low miles...SAVE!</p> <p><b>Only \$39,900</b></p>     |  <p><b>2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71</b><br/>Oh So Purdy!</p> <p><b>Only \$41,900</b></p>                                                  |  <p><b>2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4</b><br/>Diesel, Super low miles Save thousands!</p> <p><b>Only \$45,900</b></p>              |  <p><b>2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4</b><br/>Every option, super option. Get ready for winter now</p> <p><b>Only \$49,900</b></p> |  <p><b>2023 RAM CREW DUALY 4 X 4</b><br/>Big Horn, rollin' coal</p> <p><b>Only \$57,900</b></p>                                                     |